

Friday July 10 1998

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Decca Aitkenhead

What Ginger Spice and Derek Draper have in common

Comment, page 14

Bank holds interest rates but row breaks out over fears for economy

Are we heading for a crash?



Certainly not, says Chancellor Gordon Brown

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

THE Chancellor, Gordon Brown, last night shrugged off fears that Britain was on the brink of plunging into recession as the City, industry and the unions expressed ill-disguised relief at the Bank of England's decision to leave interest rates on hold at 7.5 per cent.

With the Government coming under increasing fire for the plight of UK manufacturers, Mr Brown insisted that the economy was facing a necessary slowdown rather than a slump.

He will stress in a keynote speech today that there will be no let-up in the fight against inflation and that failure to show pay moderation may trigger further increases in interest rates.

The Conservatives have seized on the slowdown in growth — particularly in the hard-hit manufacturing sector — to mount the first real challenge to the Government's handling of the economy in the 14 months since the election.

But despite speculation that the Bank of England's nine-strong Monetary Policy Committee might add to the gloom by pushing up the cost of borrowing for a seventh time since last May, it announced that rates would be left unchanged.

There had been speculation that the Bank's concern over rising wages and the strength of consumer spending would lead to a repetition of last month's quarter-point rise.

but City analysts said the MPC had been swayed by weak factory output, a widening trade deficit, the renewed strength of sterling and the possible deflationary impact of the Asian crisis.

The Chancellor said yesterday that he was sticking by his Budget forecast of 2 per cent growth this year, and will use a speech today to hit back at his critics, pledging "not to make the mistakes of my predecessors who delayed for too long the action needed to slow the economy to a sustainable pace and failed to puncture unsustainable consumer booms".

However, the reaction to the MPC's decision underlined the widespread concern about the threat of a hard landing for the UK.

John Monks, the general secretary of the TUC, warned that recession posed a higher threat to the economy than inflation.

"The Bank is right not to raise rates. This shows that the MPC has taken seriously the warning about the threat of recession across the economy if interest rates were to rise further," he said.

John Peters, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "This decision clearly reflects the Bank's recognition of the weight of recent evidence in support of economic slowdown."

"Any further rise would have been ill-judged, and plunged the manufacturing sector even deeper into recession."

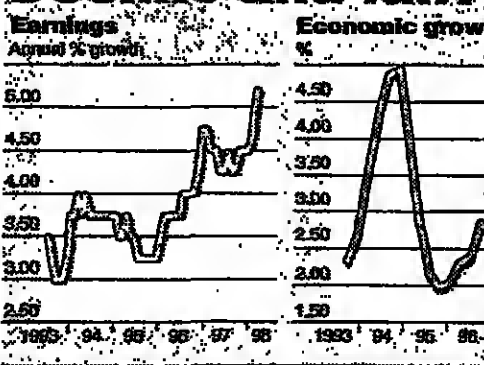
Interviewed on the BBC yesterday, the Chancellor said he understood exporters' worries about the strength of sterling, but said the worst scenario for them would be a return to the boom-bust economy of the past with interest rates of 15 per cent and a public debt of £50 billion.

"Of course the action has been tough, but it was early. Privately, Mr Brown's aides argue that the problems of the economy now are the result of 'Ken Clarke's non-decisions when he was at the Treasury'."

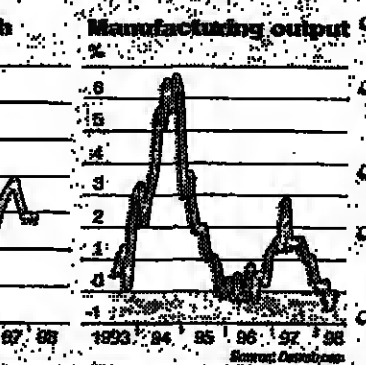
They said that without Labour's tough action, underlying inflation was projected by Treasury economists to rise above 4 per cent this year, and that Mr Clarke had ignored repeated pleas from both the Bank and his own



Decline and fall?



Economic low points



Trials dent reputation of cancer 'wonder drug'

Sarah Bassey
Health Correspondent

TAMOXIFEN, the so-called wonder drug for breast cancer, suffered a blow to its credibility yesterday when early results from studies in the UK and Italy showed it did not prevent the disease in healthy women.

Euphoria floated across the Atlantic in April when American scientists abruptly stopped the world's biggest trial of the drug's effects in cancer prevention. They released data showing that it could stop breast cancer occurring in 45 per cent of women considered at high risk, through family history, from the disease.

Of 13,000 women in their study, 65 on Tamoxifen had developed cancer, compared with 154 on a placebo.

But British scientists were appalled by the claims, and the results of a trial at the Royal Marsden hospital in London and another in Italy, published in today's *Lancet*, appear to justify their criticisms of the American action.

Although British cancer doctors believe Tamoxifen will eventually be proved to have a preventive effect, Trevor Powles and colleagues from the Royal Marsden write: "We have been unable to show any effect of Tamoxifen on breast cancer incidence in healthy women."

Umberto Veronesi and colleagues from the European Institute of Oncology in Milan had similar findings. In their group of women with a low-to-normal risk of getting cancer,

"the postulated protective effects of Tamoxifen are not yet apparent". After an average of nearly four years, there were 41 breast cancer cases among the 5,406 women, of whom 23 women were on a placebo and 19 on Tamoxifen.

These results are nothing like the 45 per cent decline in cancers that the Americans found during their study which followed women for four years. Dr Powles notes the less believes Tamoxifen will work but that scientists need to sort out who needs to take it and for how long.

Tamoxifen is proven to stop secondary cancers occurring elsewhere in the body. It is possible that some of the women who did not develop breast cancer on Tamoxifen had tumours in their very early stages which the drug checked. That would not stop them getting breast cancer.

Judge shocks convict into silence with 50,000 volts

Martin Kettle in Washington

WHEN Ronnie Hawkins was found guilty of theft in Los Angeles in April, things could hardly have looked worse. It was his third conviction, and under the United States' "three strikes" rule he faced up to 25 years in jail.

But things did get worse when Hawkins came up for sentencing in a Long Beach court last week. As he interrupted the court to complain, the patience of Judge Joan Compere-Cassini ended. The judge asked a court bailiff to point a device like a television remote control at Hawkins and press the button.

The bailiff sent a 50,000-volt electric shock through Hawkins's body for eight seconds, leaving him "stiff as a board", according to one onlooker.

The case is believed to be the first time the so-called stun belt has been used in the Los Angeles court and penal system, and has triggered an angry debate over the use of a device, condemned as torture by Amnesty International.

Hawkins had been fitted with the belt because he had been violent in custody and had repeatedly interrupted his earlier trial.

The belt is a 4ins-wide cloth waistband, with a 2lb battery pack attached at the back. It is worn under clothing so as not to attract attention, and activated by a remote control at distances of up to 300ft. It delivers a shock near the left kidney. Los Angeles is one of 100 US jurisdictions in 15 states that use the stun belt to control prisoners and defendants. Since it came on to the market some five years ago, the belt has been used 27

times, according to the manufacturers, Stun-Tech Inc of Ohio. On eight of those occasions the use has been "accidental".

The company spokesman, Dennis Kaufman, said the amperage is too low to be of much medical threat. Amnesty International says the shocks are capable of causing "long-term physical and mental injuries".

Although Judge Compere-Cassini refused to comment on her decision until after the sentencing is resumed at the end of July, three lawyers who witnessed the incident have lodged protests.

"If the guy was fighting with the bailiffs, I can understand using the belt, but that was absolutely not the case," Jacques Cain said. "To physically punish a defendant for speaking out of turn seems outrageous."

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Sketch

Something of the day about Fagin



Simon Hoggart

THE most loathed man in Parliament arrived early for the select committee on culture. On Wednesday, William Hague had demanded to know where he was "skulking". Peter Mandelson is someone who can skulk in broad daylight.

Mr Hague had also condemned the people around Tony Blair as "feather-bedding, pocket-lining, money-grabbing cronies". He could have added purse-snatchers, footpads, cracksmen and gaberdine-men.

The problem for Mr Mandelson is that all Tories, and most Labour MPs, regard him as the Fagin of this thieves' kitchen, with Derek Draper as the hapless Artful Dodger, abandoned by his mentor at the first sign of the peelers.

But this was a reformed Mandelson, an eager, helpful Mandelson, a Mandelson who yearned to be loved. (He even spoke to me before the start. "How's my tormentor today?" he asked, which was of the order of the first sign of the peelers.)

But no praise was too high for the committee itself. He had read their earlier report on the Millennium Dome. It "contains very little insight", he said. "It focuses the mind magnificently".

Even that was not enough. He lauded the committee's great sensitivity, and wanted this sensitivity read into the record.

The committee decided to love him back. He had heartwarmingly generous treatment. If Walt Disney had designed the dome, he could not have had easier questions from Mickey, Donald, Goofy and Pluto.

They were torn between two fears. Either Mr Fraser's discomfiture, Mr Mandelson had perhaps found the only people in the Commons who would not happily kick his head in.

Mr Mandelson reassured them about "evening the visitor flow", which means an entry time on everyone's ticket wallet (or "portfolio" as he calls it — such generosity from the minister who is famously without portfolio).

Thousands would arrive by river. "Many new peers are to be created along that stretch of the Thames." Old news, unless he meant "peers". One had a vision of Lord Bragg in ermine, shouting "No, star-board means right!" to passing pleasure boats.

Michael Fabricant wanted to promise that there would be no bar mitzvahs in the Spirit Zone. That sounds rather a good idea to me, but he got the pledge.

And what about the Body Zone, with its 50ft transsexual giant depicted halfway through the operation? (My suggestion is a Wig Zone, in which visitors can explore a jungle of strawberry coloured nylon hair, each strand as thick as a ship's hawser.)

Michael Fabricant and Mandelson grinned at each other in ghastly fashion. I wondered whether, when two basilisks fight a duel, the first to get his stars in turns the other to stone the peels.

Finally Mr Mandelson was safe and home with a bizarre line of questioning from the Tory Christopher Fraser, who was interested in — no, obsessed by — the notion that people would be "stuck on rush hour Tube trains".

What did he mean by "stuck"? asked Mr Mandelson. Mr Fraser bridled. "Have you ever used the Underground in the rush hour — and found yourself in close proximity to other people?"

Apparently this horror had occurred to the minister, though he had emerged unscathed. "I would not like my wife and my children on the Underground in the rush hour," said Mr Fraser.

As the room rocked with laughter, Mr Mandelson coolly replied that if Mrs Fraser wished to do some shopping or visit a friend in the rush hour, that was a decision for her. "And not for me or the Millennium Company".

The other MPs looked delighted by Mr Fraser's discomfiture. Mr Mandelson had perhaps found the only people in the Commons who would not happily kick his head in.

out seven years ago on his wife, Clemmie, the family's domestic.

Then there's Kenny's suicide note, the dead bird in the shoebox and numerous other minor complications to be unravelled before everyone realises that what they want and what they need are not always the same thing and that sometimes you have to learn to live with loss.

Simon is not noted for writing cutting-edge drama, and this all slips by as pleasantly as a lazy summer's day. But like his English counterpart, Alan Ayckbourn, Simon can deliver agreeable comedy spiked with disagreeable truths. The play is a close relation to A Midsummer Night's Dream, with designer Robert Jones's ghostly Pennsylvania woodland glade standing in for the magical forest near Athens. As in Shakespeare's play, lovers are parted, confusions arise and reconciliation and true understanding are possible only when protagonists cease being blinded by love and see each other clearly.

Simon's tart wit keeps the play buoyant even when it seems weighed down by too many incidentals and incidental characters. And Brown's cast never slack for a moment. The women are particularly good: Sherrae Powell's forbearing Clemmie; Geraldine Fitzgerald's bolting wife; and Biddy Hodson's bonny Josie.

If you never quite believe in all the emotional spectres that haunt the sunny wooded clearing just as the shadows are beginning to lengthen, then it may simply be that that is because this is Simon's most personal play and he is using it to lay his own ghosts to rest.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

The market for British crime

Consumer spending on illegal activities - illustrative estimates

Category	Consumer spending, £m, 1998	% of consumer spending, 1998
Drugs	9.5*	2.1
Prostitution	1.5*	0.3
Selling stolen goods	1.5*	0.3
Illegal gambling	1.5*	0.3
Total	12.5*	2.6*

*Top of range. Source: ONS

Trade in drugs worth up to £10bn

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE scale of the illegal drugs industry in Britain is so vast that it is worth up to £9.5 billion a year, according to the first official estimates of the total value of the trade.

Indeed, the turnover of the British crime industry is now such a significant part of the economy that Tony Blair and the Bank of England can actually look forward to a buoyant illegal drugs and prostitution industry offsetting some of the worst effects of the coming recession.

These are among the findings of a study published yesterday by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). It is impossible to say exactly how much the crime market is worth in Britain and the ONS say their figures come with a loud health warning that they are only illustrations and not even definitive estimates. Nevertheless, the study says the scale of illegal activity in Britain may account for as much as 2.5 per cent of all spending by consumers each year.

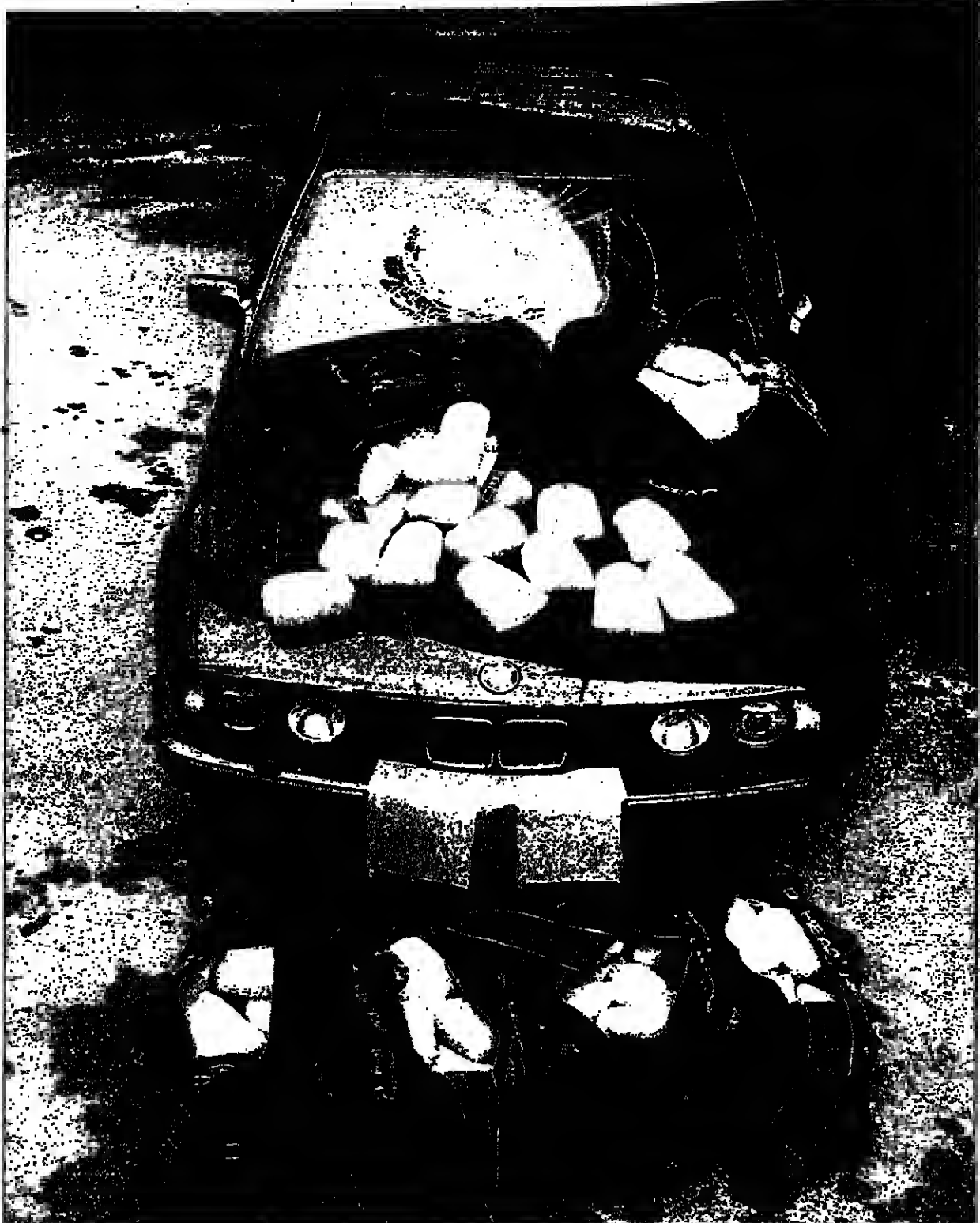
The Government's statisticians add that while the illegal drugs trade is not large enough in itself to affect the overall levels of economic growth, there is evidence that it does have a dampening effect on the "boom-bust" economic cycle as more people turn to illicit forms of income, such as drug-dealing, during a recession.

The study did not look at the black economy — legal activities which are hidden from official view mainly for tax avoidance reasons but instead concentrated on the world of crime. The researchers say if illegal activities are not included in the national accounts they provide a distorted picture of the British economy.

The rough illustrative estimates put the total consumer spending on illegal drugs in Britain between £4.3 billion and £9.5 billion. The difference depends on a range of assumptions about whether the annual volume of drugs seized represents as little as 5 per cent or as much as 20 per cent of the total illegal drugs trade.

In strictly economic terms, the illegal drugs trade is seen mainly as an import business with a small level of domestic production and a negligible export trade. For example, a large slice of the home-produced trade is made up of growing cannabis plants.

The police seized 115,647 such plants in 1996 and the study assumes that these cost £170 per kilo to produce and have a "street value" of £2,460 a kilo. The ONS study makes a minimum estimate that if the 115,000 plants seized represent 2 per cent of total production then 567,000 kilos of cannabis are being grown in Britain each year with a cost value of £100 million and a "street value" of £1.96 billion.



Heroin haul in London... Britons seem to spend as much on illegal drugs as they do on wines PHOTOGRAPH: KIPPA MATTHEWS

In trying to illustrate the scale of the British crime industry, the researchers looked at evidence from official and academic sources on prostitution, illegal gambling, the "fencing" of stolen goods, as well as illegal drug dealing. The ONS estimates that as much as £1.2 billion a year may be spent on prostitution. This is based on the results of an academic study of prostitution in London which found that the business was worth £194 million a year in the capital and scaling it up to a UK level. The academic study found that £93 million a year was spent in massage parlours and saunas in the capital; £37 million on escort agencies; £15 million on hostess bars and clubs and £9.5 million on street prostitution. The estimate of the £700 million a year value of the trade in stolen goods is based on data from the British Crime Survey and the assumption that thieves sell their stolen property on to a fence for about a third of its retail value and the fence sells it on for 50 per cent of its shop price. Thieves are believed to raise between £900 million a year and £1.68 billion from selling stolen goods.

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Review

Laying the ghosts of past losses

Lyn Gardner

Proposals
West Yorkshire Playhouse

NEIL Simon's latest play, given its European premiere in an elegant production by Ian Brown at Leeds, draws on the author's recollections of the summer almost 50 years ago when he began writing in earnest and also met his beloved first wife. It is, like Brighton Beach Memoirs, a memory play. But like all Simon's best work its real subject is the condition of the human heart.

In the case of Burt, a television salesman who made loads of money but never had any time for his family, that is none too good. Since the wife he still loves left him for another man three years previously, Burt has suffered a series of near fatal heart attacks. This summer in the Pocono Mountains, 50 miles from New York, may be his last, a possibility that his 23-year-old daughter, Josie, finds hard to accept. Nor can she begin to forgive her mother, the fragrant Auntie, who has just dropped in from Paris.

But Josie has other affairs of the heart to attend to herself: she has just broken off her engagement to Harvard law student Keony and quite clearly she still hasn't got over the previous summer's affair with Kenny's friend, the would-be writer Ray. Then there's Ray's girlfriend, the dumb blonde Sammi, and Josie's passing acquaintance, Vinnie, a small-time mobster who murders sharks and the English language with equal enthusiasm. These two turn up one hot August weekend along with Lewis, who walked

out seven years ago on his wife, Clemmie, the family's domestic.

Then there's Kenny's suicide note, the dead bird in the shoebox and numerous other minor complications to be unravelled before everyone realises that what they want and what they need are not always the same thing and that sometimes you have to learn to live with loss.

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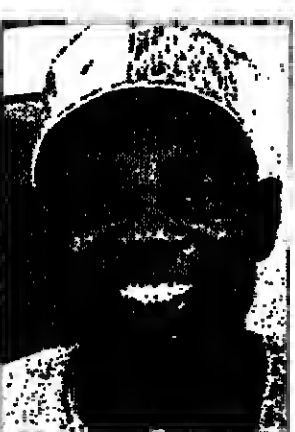
This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

society

Every Wednesday in the
The Guardian

Abiola's warring wives mirror Nigeria's divides

Alex Duval Smith in Lagos finds clan mousers squabbling over the dead chief and predicting a return to tribalism in his wake



Late Chief Abiola: His 10 to 20 children are also at odds

GATHERED in and around the huge white villa that Chief Moshood Abiola holed to accommodate his warring relatives of Nigeria's late opposition figure yesterday seemed to be leading by example. They were at each other's throats. "The Bible says, 'each unto his tent, O Israel', and that is how Nigeria will develop now that the regime has killed my husband," said his wife, Dupe Abiola, receiving mourners in the garden. "He was the glue that held us together. Now each tribe must have its own nation."

Inside the two-storey villa, where chairs had been lined up in two adjoining red-carpeted reception rooms, mourners knelt in respect in front of the senior wife, Bisi, whom Abiola married in 1974. Bisi clearly did not want Dupe in her tent.

"Get out, get out," her warring friends shouted at the smartly dressed young woman. Someone spat the word "concubine", and Dupe fled to the garden.

In the array of multi-coloured opulent brightening Ikra district's Moshood Abiola Crescent — the businessman built the first house there — another wife, Doyin, whom he married in 1982, made a fleeting appearance. "We do not see much of Doyin. She quietly gets on with running her newspaper, the Concord, and has deadlines to think about," said one of the 200 Abiola supporters gathered in the garden.

The gathering was rapidly turning into a political meeting, as youths chanted a slogan critical of the northern Bansa-dominated military regime: "Did you people see how they suffer us? Did you people see them wicked us?" Bearing banners calling for "Oduduwa" — an independent state for the Yoruba tribe which dominates the south — they met with a warm reception from Dupe's tent faction.

Titi was nowhere to be seen. The wife who lives in a flat-roofed villa extension resembling well-painted servants' quarters was sidelined by the family several years ago for "betrayal", when she was perceived to be too close to the military.

"In Africa it is rude to talk about numbers," said Dupe dismissively when asked her age, how long she had known Abiola and how many children abba had.

No one was sure how many children Abiola had before his death at the age of 60. But judging from the crowd on the balcony there are between 10 and 20.

They, too, are divided. But Kola — Abiola's eldest son by his first wife, the late Simbiat — is senior. He is believed to have led negotiations with the military regime over the autopsy on his father, expected today.

The family divisions surfaced during negotiations for Abiola's release after four years in custody. After his meeting with the tycoon

of his children. As a Muslim, he was allowed four.

Simbiat, whom he married in 1980, was opposed to his involvement in politics but helped his rise to regional chairman of the telecommunications giant ITT. She died in 1992, and the more politically ambitious Kudirat, whom he married in 1973, became senior wife.

Amid family squabbles, Kudirat led a campaign for Abiola's release but was shot dead in Lagos in 1996. "The car she was in is still at the central police station. No one in the family has been to claim it or bothered to press the police to investigate," a mourner said.

Details await their fate, page 12

Are we heading for a crash?

continued from page 1

officials to raise rates in the last six months of the Conservative government.

The Chancellor will return to this theme today at the annual conference of the Association of Local Authorities in Bourne-mouth, where he will say: "The task for Britain is to move from an inflation-prone unbalanced stop-go economy and the very violent cycles we saw in the late 1980s and early 1990s to an economy capable of steady, stable and sustainable growth."

on course to get back on track for sustainable growth with low inflation.

"And to those who say that we should relax our commitment to controlling inflation now or who sanction pay increases cannot be afforded, I say it would be the worst short-termism to take inflationary risks now with the further risks of higher interest rates tomorrow and the loss of jobs that would follow."

Justin Urquhart-Stewart, analyst at Barclays Stockbrokers, said the City breathed a sigh of relief at the Bank's decision. "We need to take a step back and evaluate the current state of the market over the summer."



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Companies have fallen over each other in their efforts to cash in on the interest in France 98, but in doing so many may have tarnished their standing with consumers

Stuart Millar on football fatigue



Investment and frequency have been crucial to brand awareness, as with the Cup campaigns by Adidas, featuring David Beckham, and Vauxhall (below)

Advertisers drain the Cup dry

FROM cars and credit cards to soap powder and supermarket trolleys, there have been millions to be associated with the World Cup. But yesterday there came the first evidence that companies which have bombarded the public with football-related advertising are risking a consumer backlash.

Almost 70 per cent of the population believes that too many manufacturers have jumped on the France 98 bandwagon, according to a survey by Marketing Week published yesterday. A similar number felt that companies were exploiting children's enthusiasm for the game.

The magazine interviewed 1,000 people after England's game against Colombia on June 26. Only 11 per cent bought a product because of a World Cup pack or promotion — evidence that the nation's patience with World Cup commercial overkill might be running out.

"There are always one or two ads everybody remembers and dozens that nobody remembers," said Roger Baird, Marketing Week's assistant manager. "But the worst category is the ads with no relevance to the game. They can seriously damage their brand because people think they are being hoodwinked into believing the company has a relationship with football."

Companies have flocked to have themselves associated

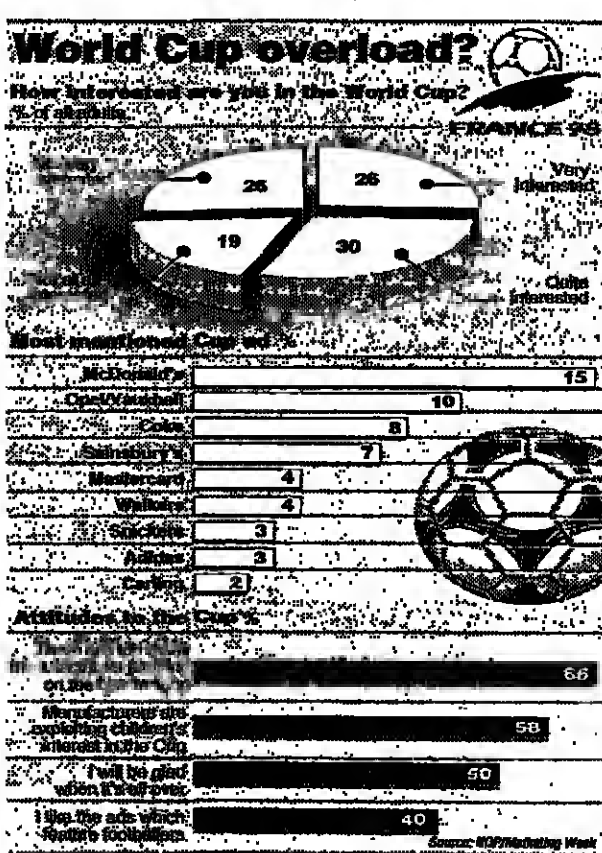
with France 98 because of the tournament's enormous commercial clout. Fifa, the international football federation, predicts the revenue from the 64 games, including ticket sales, television rights and official merchandising, will total £20 billion.

The tournament's 12 official sponsors each paid about £20 million for the privilege and spent the same again on marketing. Despite the collective £500 million outlay, however, 66 per cent of respondents to the survey either could not remember the names of the sponsors, or named companies which do not have official Fifa status. Even the sponsor cited most often, McDonald's, was mentioned without prompting by only 28 per cent of respondents.

"If you asked a 12-year-old, they would be able to tell you that there has been too many companies trying to get on the World Cup bandwagon," said Mike Perry, managing director of Nike UK's advertising agency, Wieden and Kennedy.

"[Companies] are being misdirected by their agencies who are telling them that this is the best way to connect with the audience. But the people who are watching these ads are smart, and they know that these companies have no real relationship with the game."

The experience of Nike, whose Ronaldo beach and air sport advertisements have been acclaimed as the most creative of the tournament,



suggests that money and quantity were more important than quality in establishing awareness. Nike's ads were mentioned by only 2 per cent of respondents to the Marketing Week survey — putting it behind products like Snickers and Mastercard as well as arch-rival Adidas, an official sponsor.

At the other end of the scale was Vauxhall. Widely cited as the most irritating of all the Cup advertising campaigns, its 24 million "break bump-



ers" around ITV's coverage were the second most mentioned ads after McDonald's.

"The inference seems to be that creativity doesn't count for too much in cutting through the clutter," the magazine said. "What matters is a steady, withering fire-power that finally makes its mark on the viewer. This is true in as much as far as Vauxhall is concerned."

David Reaside, a spokesman for Vauxhall said: "Effective advertising does actually polarise people. To some people, it may start to grate after a while but it does get across the reference to the Vauxhall brand."

Trimble warns of march mayhem

John Mulfin
Ireland Correspondent

FIRST Minister David Trimble warned last night that Northern Ireland faced "mayhem" this weekend after Tony Blair's talks with the Orange Order failed to find a breakthrough to the Drumcree impasse, now entering its sixth day.

Mr Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, spoke of the "awesome prospect" of widespread violence. There have been more than 500 loyalist attacks on the security forces throughout Northern Ireland, including 14 shootings and 29 bombings, since the Drumcree crisis erupted.

Mr Trimble said: "We are all very conscious that time is running out and that the weekend carries with it very grave risks for society in Northern Ireland." He pleaded for flexibility on both sides.

His comments came after Orange Order leaders emerged from a one-hour meeting at Downing Street determined to take their traditional route down the Garvaghy Road, while Mr Blair refused to overturn the Parades Commission's ban on them doing so. They were expected to talk again on the telephone.

Thousands of Orangemen are expected to converge on Drumcree Church this weekend. Today sees the start of the July 12 holiday, and Monday is a climax in the Orange Order's marching calendar, marking William III's victory at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

About 10,000 Orangemen were at Drumcree Church on Wednesday night. Several protesters broke through barriers before the security forces fought them back with plastic bullets, the first time they had been fired since the Orangemen were blocked there on Sunday.

Orange Order leaders were

criticised for double standards after it emerged that they had discussed the standoff with a loyalist convicted of double murder. They refuse to speak to Brendan MacCionnail, a representative of the Garvaghy Road residents, because of his terrorist past.

Kenny McClinton, who served 16 years in prison for the killings, revealed he had had talks with senior Orangemen over the increasing violence. He refused to specify whom he had met. Mr McClinton, now a preacher, gave the graveside oration at the funeral in Portadown last year of murdered Loyalist Volunteer Force leader Billy Wright. He is the LVF's nominated linkman to the body overseeing the decommissioning of terrorist weapons.

He said that he had given the Orangemen assurances that the LVF was not "structurally" involved in the disorder. The Orange Order had made it clear that protests should be peaceful.

David McNarry, a member of the Grand Lodge of Ireland's strategy committee, sounded a threatening note on Radio 4's Today programme. He said that Orangemen could bring Northern Ireland to its knees. "If Her Majesty's Government is quia prepared to say those people who are suffering at Drumcree, who are staying out at night, who are there because they firmly believe in their civil and religious liberties, if they are to be treated so scantily, then I've got to say that we can, if we wish, put our minds to paralyse this country in a matter of hours."

William Bingham, chaplain to the Orange Order in Armagh, who met Mr Blair, distanced himself from Mr McNarry's remarks. He said: "Who wants to see Ulster paralysed? Who gains? We love our country."

Drumcree and freedom, page 14; Leader comment, page 15

Lesbian couple plan baby with Net sperm

Sample from hand-picked father brought to Britain for home use

Sarah Hall

A BRITISH lesbian couple are planning their dream baby after buying £280-worth of frozen sperm on the Internet.

The couple have picked their perfect potential father after tapping specifications into the net site of a Californian company, NewLife.

Offered a choice of height, weight, age, nationality, income level, personality, even sexual preference, they have chosen a 30-year-old tall, dark, handsome American as the biological father. Credit card details have been exchanged, and the sperm — stored in liquid nitrogen or carbon dioxide — is being couriered from the United States. It will be administered at home with a syringe.

Yesterday, as they awaited the arrival of the package at their home in Winchester, Hants, the duo, a solicitor and teacher, insisted they had exhausted every other avenue

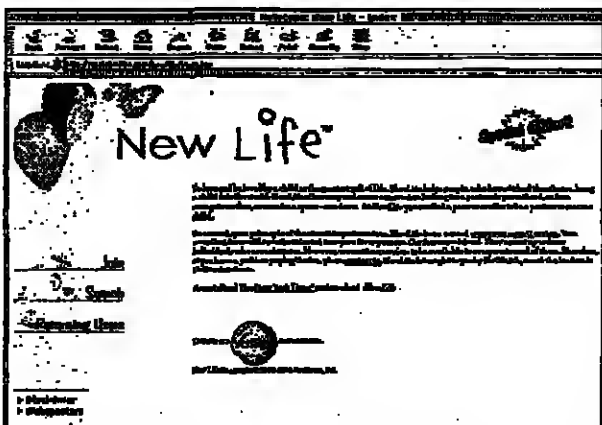
in their three-year quest for a child.

"The path has been rocky," said Sarah, the solicitor, who, like her partner of six years, is identified only by her first name. "Local councils say they have no policy restricting gay people to adopt or foster but [gay] friends of ours who have tried desperately for a baby have not had a lot of success — and besides we want our own flesh and blood."

The 32-year-old, who miscarried at 19, added: "We have approached gay friends asking them to donate sperm, but the majority wanted to have some input in our baby's upbringing and we didn't want that."

"This approach sounds very clinical, and not at all how a baby should be conceived in the traditional sense, but it is the most feasible option and we are grasping the opportunity."

Jane, aged 27, who will carry the baby, was equally insistent about her desire for a child. "Neither of us believe this to be abnormal or mor-



The Californian company, NewLife, as seen on the Internet

ally wrong," she insisted. "We have as much love as a man or a woman starting a family and we have plenty of male role models in our families for its childhood to be as stable as any other child's. Our child will be deprived of nothing as we have a strong relationship and our family and friends are behind us 100 per cent."

She said she was "a little nervous" about going ahead with the artificial insemina-

tion, and said the decision to have a child, by such an unorthodox method, was "not a decision we entered into lightly. We both have successful careers behind us and could have carried on regardless. But we both have a yearning deep inside to have a child and nothing is going to stop us," she added.

But the UK's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), which licenses and vets clinics

offering artificial insemination, warned that the success rate for couples carrying out artificial insemination with donor sperm at home was "almost negligible".

"The success rate in HFEA-registered clinics — where they often use drugs to spark ovulation — is only 9 per cent, but if it's being carried out at home, there's a very low success rate indeed," added the authority's spokesman Barney Wyld.

He warned that the couple would be breaking the law by storing sperm and, unlike couples gaining sperm through HFEA clinics, they would have no legal protection against the child's biological father claiming parental rights.

The authority also has no control over sperm offered on the Net — ensuring that there are no guarantees it has been effectively screened for HIV or other diseases.

"To be honest, if you buy sperm on the Internet, you don't know what you are getting," said Mr Wyld. "There are no guarantees the sperm is of good enough quality to achieve fertilisation, or even that it came from the donor you've picked."

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BBC



At odds: Right, Canon William Sayer, Rector of St Nicholas; above, Margaret and Colin Palmer. PHOTOGRAPHS: ALBAN DONCHOE

Seaside church divided against itself over plan to install cafe

Amelia Gentleman

PLANS to modernise a 14th century church by replacing several rows of pews with a kitchen and a cafe have caused fierce controversy in a seaside town, an ecclesiastical court heard yesterday.

The parochial church council at Wells-Next-the-Sea in Norfolk wants to

take five rows of Victorian pews out of St Nicholas church, and move the font, to make room for a catering area. Members believe the changes would help the church meet the needs of a modern congregation — allowing it to provide, among other things, refreshments at Mothers' Union meetings.

Opponents claim the character of the church, which

dates back to the 14th century but was largely rebuilt in the 19th century, could be destroyed.

Judge John Ellison, Chancellor of the Diocese of Norwich and its most senior legal officer, heard arguments from both sides in the two-year-old dispute during a day-long hearing at the church. More than 100 people crowded inside to listen, with supporters of the

plans on the left and opponents on the right.

Church warden William Tippler told the court that the plans had been made in response to encouragement from both the Bishop of Norwich and the Archbishop of Canterbury to make churches centres of wider social activity.

As well as providing a monthly parish lunch, the church wanted to be able

stage occasional concerts. "Social activities require a suitable open area in which people can circulate," Mr Tippler said.

The rector, Canon William Sayer, also supports the plans. He told the hearing: "It is right that people should be able to socialise in comfort and safety. We have always tried to make sure the facilities are unobtrusive. They will not be

used during services." But some of the congregation remains against modernisation, claiming there is not enough demand for social functions to justify the changes and that a kitchen and "social area" would destroy the ambience of the church — a Grade I listed building.

They argue that the pews — a legacy to the church's heritage, and were not placated by the suggestion that a local funeral parlour be given the surplus pews to install in a chapel of rest.

Margaret Palmer, who led the opposition with her husband Colin, a retired civil servant, told the court: "Many of the congregation are against the plans. Forty-seven people have signed a petition opposing them. Wells town

council has also expressed its opposition."

A town councillor, David Perryman, added: "The proposals have caused a split in the town. But it would seem that the majority of residents in the town are opposed. I feel that a kitchen area would not be keeping with the ambience of the church."

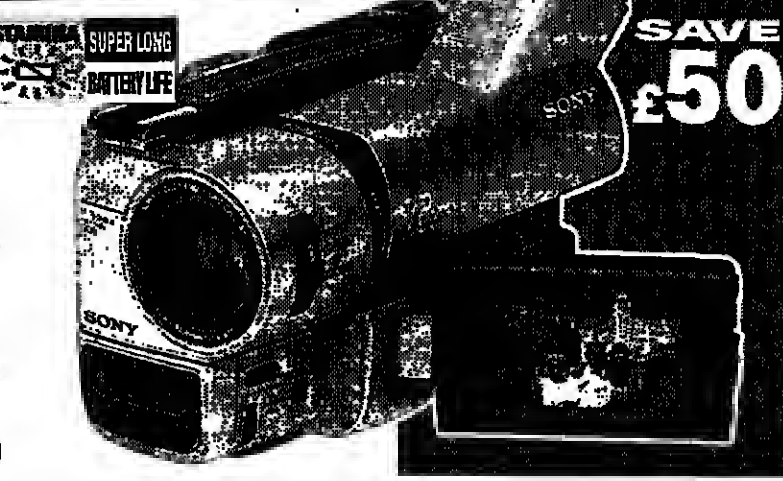
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Baby death survey finds parents and doctors at fault

Sarah Bosseley Health Correspondent

BETTER CARE by parents or doctors might have saved the lives of around 60 babies a year, according to an estimate published yesterday.

The Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy says in its annual report that its researchers investigated 93 deaths of small babies that were voluntarily reported to them in five areas of the country. In 23 cases parents or carers were at fault or could have done more; GPs were criticised for sub-standard care in 14 cases; paediatricians in 10, and health visitors in six.

The inquiry was set up to look into cot deaths, or SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). But in its latest report, the researchers look at stillbirths and what they call sudden unexpected deaths in infancy (SUDI).

Of the total of all deaths before aged one, 80 per cent are due to cot death, they say, but in the remaining 20 per cent, the reasons for death are

known, and with prompt intervention, one in two could have been prevented.

Out of the 93 cases, in 10 cases where GPs were criticised, they had failed to recognise how ill the baby was. One mother took her three-month-old boy to the doctor in the morning because he felt very hot, with a skin temperature of 40C, was off his feeds and had sticky eyes.

The GP examined the baby briefly and prescribed eye drops," the report says. "Later in the day the baby started vomiting repeatedly and became very drowsy. The mother called the practice and was told to come at the end of evening surgery. She took the baby straight away nevertheless, but by the time the GP came to see him he was limp and unresponsive. The mother was told to take him to hospital in her car, she was delayed and when they arrived the baby was dead. Autopsy showed septicaemia with adrenal haemorrhage."

Some GPs have very little experience of acutely ill babies, and the report calls for the Royal Colleges of GPs and Paediatricians to try to

fill this gap. But there are errors and omissions in hospitals as well. Investigators found six cases where paediatricians had not given a baby the best treatment for its condition, and four where paediatricians also had not realised how serious the case was.

As with cot death babies, most of the parents concerned were found to be from a socially disadvantaged background, more likely to be unemployed, without educational qualifications, and in crowded accommodation. Mothers were often young, had other children, and sometimes no partner.

In 23 cases, parents or carers could have done more, the report found. In one case, a single mother aged 16 was bathing her seven-month-old son with her niece of 18 months. She went to answer the phone and by the time she got back, her son had drowned. The report says her youth, her lack of support, her lack of attention to the baby in the bath, and her use of cannibals were all factors. It suggests that health authorities target support towards such disadvantaged families.

Professor to take over 'high stress' post as medical chief

Sarah Bosseley

ONE patient in 10 leaves hospital with an infection they did not have when they went in, a doctor told the British Medical Association's annual meeting in Cardiff yesterday.

Jo Kearns painted an alarming picture of hospital wards where inadequate facilities and lax practices conspire to make the sick still sicker. Patients get less protection from infection than the care lavished on a pork pie," said Dr Kearns, a BMA occupational health committee member, who used to work in the food industry.

"Nurses carry contagion into the hospital when they come to work in uniform," he said. "For want of adequate changing facilities, theatre staff go to the canteen in theatre clothing. Even in the theatre, nostrils above masks spray infection into the wound before our very eyes."

Diana, Princess of Wales, was allowed to watch an operation with her hair hanging out of her surgical cap, he said.

Nurses who try to remind doctors of the need for cleanliness are put in their place, he claimed. "It is my experience that nurses who have asked doctors of any grade to wash their hands are steamrollered on the basis of seniority."

Hospitals 'make patients sicker'

Sarah Bosseley

At the heart of the problem was lack of resources. He had seen a nurse wheel a bicycle with wet wheels through the recovery room of a cardiac ward because there was nowhere safe for her to leave it outside.

But there was good practice in some hospitals, especially modern hospitals. A Public Health Laboratory Service report last year estimated 60,000 people a year pick up an infection in hospital. And there is no enforceable health and safety code of practice in the NHS.

"In a random survey of 30 hospitals, the National Audit Office found that not one had a health and safety plan. One year later, the Health Services Advisory Committee has still failed to consider a report which described hospitals as dangerous places," Dr Kearns said.

He asked the meeting to back his call for "a strategic assault upon a complacent management immune from criticism."

Until eight years ago, the NHS was immune from prosecution, but cases are now rising rapidly. "The NHS Executive was set up to avoid responsibility. The buck stops with the trust executives who can't get their hands on the money to deal with the backlog. Up until the last few years they didn't have to worry," said Dr Kearns.

'He is a symbol of the right of every farmer, grower, allotment holder and gardener in Britain to produce crops that are free from genetically modified organisms'



Guy Watson joins forces with a Frankenstein head outside the Law Courts yesterday at the launch of his battle against genetically modified crops

PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES HORTON

Farmer challenges gene crops

James Melville

A LEADING organic farmer yesterday said it would soon be impossible to grow an organic vegetable crop in southern England unless trials of genetically modified maize were halted.

Guy Watson, who farms at Buckfastleigh, near Totnes, Devon, was speaking before he launched a legal challenge of government procedures and risk assessments for allowing the tests near his farm. Judgment is expected today on whether he will be allowed a judicial review.

Mr Watson said the dangers of cross-contamination to his sweetcorn crop would

spell big problems for his business. He was developing new systems to supply supermarket chains with the sweetcorn. His organic vegetable trade already had a £15 million turnover and employed 70 people.

"If the trials are successful and the seeds get on to the national seed list, genetically modified (GM) sweetcorn will be grown throughout the south of England. Every July and August, the air will be saturated with GM pollen. It will be impossible to grow an organic crop."

Even low levels of cross-pollination would break rules governing organic foods. Customers would also lose confidence in the product, said Mr Watson, who is being backed by Friends of the Earth and

the Soil Association which grants organic status. Michael Fordham, representing the farmer at the Law Courts in London, said: "The trial is being permitted without proper regard to the question of risk of contamination."

Government advisers' view had been that "the amount of cross-pollination to my client's organic crop is likely to be zero." But that did not address the actual risk. "He grows organic crops with Soil Association accreditation. His livelihood and reputation are based on that endeavour."

While the courts would not want to get involved in the controversy over genetically modified crops, "it is important that requirements of the law are upheld and not ignored," Mr Watson and his supporters want a quick decision because the trial GM sweetcorn will soon flower and produce pollen. He has already moved his sweetcorn crops to two kilometres from the GM site.

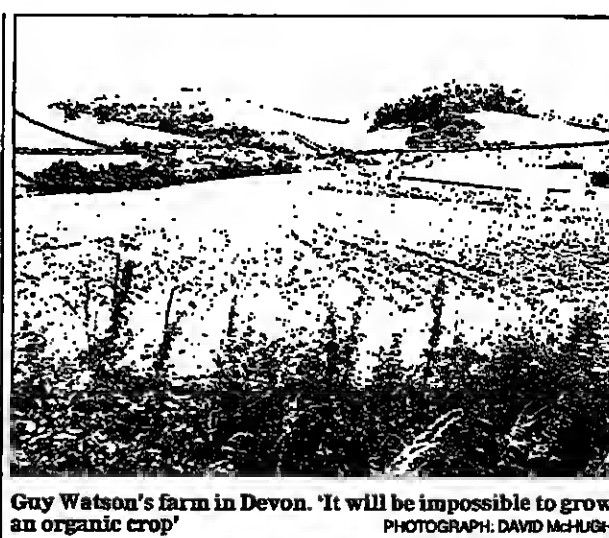
Mr Fordham said the trials were also flawed because the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, which was carrying them out for the Government, had not been given the consent to release GM organisms into the environment. That permission had been given to Sharpes International seed company.

Mark Hoskins, for the Government, argued that procedures had been properly followed by environment and agriculture departments. He added that the GM maize had

already been approved by the European Commission after tests in France, which had not yet given consent for it to be grown commercially, but under EU law was obliged to do so. If UK legislation was different, it could be ruled illegal.

"It is simply not tenable to question the safety of the product any more," if the Soil Association refused to accept the EU view and took away Mr Watson's accreditation, that was not the Government's problem.

Patrick Holden, director of the Soil Association, said Mr Watson "symbolises the right of every farmer, grower, allotment holder and gardener in Britain to produce crops that are free from genetically modified organisms."



Guy Watson's farm in Devon. 'It will be impossible to grow an organic crop'

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID McHUGH

Green light for 'super' M25

Kelth Harper
Transport Editor

PLAN to turn the most congested section of the M25 near Heathrow airport into a 10- to 12-lane superhighway, with a lane for buses and one for cars carrying more than one person, are due to be announced by the Government this month.

The widening will make the M25 the country's biggest motorway, and will renew opposition from local residents and environmentalists. The current £85-million scheme is to widen a 12-mile stretch between the M4, the Heathrow exit, and the M3, the turn-off for Gatwick. But the new scheme could cost more.

The announcement is planned to follow the presentation of the Government's integrated transport policy white paper, although Whitehall sources made it clear last night that a final decision has still to be taken.

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, hopes to divert criticism by arguing that the widening fits the Government's overall transport strategy, which he will underline by scrapping several other road projects.

The bus lane will greatly assist the movement of traffic between Gatwick and Heathrow in the absence of a direct rail service. At present, airlines allow three hours for the 30-mile journey, but a bus lane would halve that.

The introduction of a lane for cars with more than one person would be the first of its type. It would be watched by roadside cameras and drivers without passengers would face fixed penalties.

Mr Prescott has spent a year deciding on whether to widen the M25 after intervening to prevent the project going ahead following protests from MPs.

Environmental groups say the widening — which would delight the roads lobby — would create more pollution and money would be better spent on public transport schemes. But Mr Prescott is likely to say that it can be accommodated within the existing motorway boundaries.

Other roads decisions currently on hold include the widening of the M2, upgrading trunk roads between Cumbria and Bradford, and the improvement of trunk roads between Luton, Leicester and the M1.

Six win damages over Tory's taped remarks

Ex-MP forced to pay for Birmingham 'killers' smear

Rory Carroll

THE Birmingham Six yesterday won libel damages and an apology from a former Tory MP who implied they were guilty of hundreds of terrorist killings, despite having been cleared by the Court of Appeal.

David Evans paid an undisclosed sum plus costs over the comments, which were picked up and published by national newspapers last year after he gave a taped interview to sixth formers.

Representatives of the six said they were delighted another blow had been struck against the Establishment's whispering campaign de-

signed to cast doubt on their innocence.

Before losing his Welwyn Hatfield seat in the 1997 general election, Mr Evans asked pupils at Stanborough school in Welwyn Garden City: "You think the Birmingham Six hadn't killed hundreds of people before they caught them?"

Mr Evans said it was an off-the-cuff remark released without his knowledge or consent to the media.

In a statement read yesterday in the High Court in London, Mr Evans unreservedly retracted the allegation, promised not to repeat it, and accepted the 1991 verdict of the Court of Appeal.

It quashed the convictions for the two pub bombs which in November 1974 killed 21 people and injured 162.

It found that scientific and police evidence at the original trial was unreliable and that certain police officers had deceived the court.

The men served 16 years of their life sentence before



David Evans: apologised and retracted his comments being released. Bernadette Birnberg, solicitor for the six, read a statement to Mr Justice Popplewell.

recognise the truth of that simple fact.

The concern the plaintiffs feel about public opprobrium in some quarters may be expressed in the words of W.B. Yeats: "The blood-dimmed tide is loosed and everywhere the ceremony of innocence is drowned."

The damages will be split evenly between families of the six — Paddy Joe Hill, Hugh Callaghan, Gerry Hunter, Richard McKinnery, William Power and Johnny Walker.

Most of the men have had grave difficulties adjusting to life outside prison. Mr Hill, aged 62, said: "Chuffed? I'm delighted, absolutely delighted."

Kate McKinnery, wife of Richard, said the family was relieved that another smear attempt had failed.

"I am glad because it will help stop all the nonsense of the Establishment. They can't get away with it. If they try to say something like that again, they'd be very foolish."

Philippines jails abuser

Amelia Gertelman

A BRITISH tourist was sentenced to up to 14 years in prison in the Philippines yesterday for molesting an eight-year-old Filipino girl while talking to her mother.

Campaigners against the sex tourist industry, which remains strong in the Philippines, welcomed the severity of the sentence — a clear demonstration of the government's determination to crack down on foreign paedophiles who continue to frequent the country.

According to the mother's testimony, John Piddan, of Rugby, Warwickshire, sat at a park cafe table in the capital, Manila, last August.

The girl started to squirm, and when Piddan went to buy cigarettes she told her mother that he had been touching her

leg and thigh. When they tried to leave, he followed them until a taxi driver intervened.

Piddan, aged 48, pleaded not guilty and claimed he had been framed by the mother to obtain money. But Judge Lorenzo Veneracion rejected the defence, saying there was no evidence that the mother had demanded money.

Sentencing him to between 12 and 14 years, the judge told him he was guilty of "causing danger and prejudice to the normal growth of the child" and ordered him to be deported after completing the prison term. He said the country could not "allow and would never allow undesirable aliens to abuse the innocence of our children."

The Philippines remains a popular destination on the international paedophile circuit — partly because of widespread poverty, weak law enforcement and corruption

among officials. Last August, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Philippines, agreeing to exchange information on child sex offenders as part of an international campaign against exploitation and abuse of children.

Christine Beddoe, from End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT), said: "This sentence should be seen in the context of the Philippine government's attempt to crack down very heavily on foreigners who go there to sexually abuse children."

"The sentence is more severe than would have been given in Britain, but it is symbolic of the government's recognition that cases with foreign offenders have to be treated very seriously. This should act as a clear deterrent to foreign abusers."

Met detective arrested over missing funds

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A METROPOLITAN Police detective has been arrested in connection with the alleged removal of £110,000 of the force's funds. It was confirmed yesterday. It is alleged that he had pretended the money was needed for undercover operations.

The officer, a detective sergeant, was arrested on July 1 at his home by officers from the Complaints Investigation Bureau, a Scotland Yard spokeswoman said yesterday. She added that he had been interviewed in connection with allegations of theft and deception over a number of years, suspended from duty and released on bail. A number of documents, bank statements and phone records have also been seized.

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Frankfurt	D.M.	237	415	784
Hamburg	D.M.	237	415	784
Geneva	S.F.	218	382	703
Zurich	S.F.	218	382	703
Brussels	B.F.	4,370	7,840	14,060
Amsterdam	NLG	285	486	835
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Yesterday

Good day: Women's tennis, defended by MPs against the ramblings of former British No 1 Buster Mottram. Giving women players equal pay, he said, would be "a total capitulation to political correctness". He added bizarrely: "Until recently even heavy dosages of Viagra would not have made 90 per cent of women tennis players attractive to 80-year-old men in Lycra shorts."

Bad day: Mr Mottram, whose words were dismissed by Roger Stott MP as "a load of garbage". Julie Kirkbride MP said: "What ever he says (women players) are certainly more attractive than the men. And many would argue that they make more entertaining tennis than the grunt and slam techniques of the typical male player."

Worse day: Jeremy Paxman attacked by David Blunkett for daring to criticise private companies supporting the new education action zones. "The spectacle of Jeremy Paxman and others attacking those who are giving freely of their time is a disgrace."

Box of the day: A new hi-tech, ministerial red box. Wasn't that launched about six months ago? It turned out it was too tricky to use. New improved version is the size of an A6 notebook and weighs 5lbs. A Cabinet Office spokesman said: "Of course, ministers won't be required to use the computers but we hope this will prove a useful tool for more efficient government."

Today

Princess of Wales memorial fund bill debated in the Commons and possibly rushed through in one day

Hague seeks common cause with councils

Peter Metherington
Regional Affairs
Correspondent

WILLIAM Hague yesterday offered what amounted to a public recantation for the erosion of town hall powers in the Thatcher and Major years, when he acknowledged that his party had for too long treated councils as if they were irrelevant.

Labelling New Labour the new centralisers, he pleaded with England's Labour council leaders to make "common cause" with the Tories to prevent authorities losing powers. Addressing the annual conference of the Labour-dominated Local Government Association, Mr Hague said: "I am determined that my party will be committed to effective local government too. This is not some radical departure for Conservatives — more a coming home."

He was warmly applauded when he ridiculed Tony Blair for sending a short video rather than appear before the 1,200 delegates in Bournemouth. "A video, they said, is a useful gimmick for political leaders who are addressing a hostile audience, are afraid of being heckled, or simply can't be bothered to come all the way to Bournemouth."

After coming close to apolo-

gising for the short-lived poll tax, he called for a fresh start between Tories and councils. "Because we have got into a vicious spiral in which more power has been centralised, the less interested the electorate has become in things that happen locally," he said.

Acknowledging that turn-outs in council elections were now the lowest in the European Union, he indicated that local democracy could be re-invigorated by ministers returning spending powers to town halls. This should be accompanied by a new anti-sleaze offence of "misuse of public office", applying throughout the public sector, coupled with a string of local audit committees to monitor individual councils.

Although Labour has promised to end what it calls "crude and universal" capping of local authority budgets, the LGA believes that strong Whitehall controls will remain. Mr Hague said: "If we can achieve more independence and more accountability for local authorities, with all the tough choices and difficult responsibilities that entails, then we should be able to strip away the controls that fetter councils, including capping."

One of the great ironies of the last 12 months, he acknowledged, was that while the Tories were beginning to rediscover the value of councils and local decision-making,

the Government was moving in the opposite direction. "New Labour are control freaks. They cannot bear anyone else in the political process exercising power or taking decisions."

In education, he claimed the Government was centralising control in a more extreme way than former Soviet education ministers by transferring power from schools and education authorities to the Department for Education.

"It is sometimes said that when it comes to education, David Blunkett (Education Secretary) and Stephen Byers (schools minister) are more Tory than the Tories," he added. "That is precisely what the Downing Street spin doctors want us to believe. But... they are no such thing. They see themselves as chief executives and want to run your education services with an iron grip from Whitehall."

In the regions, seven development agencies to be created next year would become the most powerful, centrally-run quangos ever seen in the country. Members appointed to agency boards would be directly accountable to the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, while functions would come from local councils — "your resources, your powers, your responsibilities," Mr Hague warned delegates.



William Hague yesterday... 'New Labour cannot bear anyone else in the political process exercising power'

Mandelson allays Dome cash fears

Anne Perkins
Political Correspondent

PETER Mandelson, the Dome minister, tried to play down fears about meeting sponsorship targets for the Millennium Experience yesterday, after a progress report from the company in charge of London's Corporation and GEO, and support in cash and kind from Camelot, which will handle ticket sales.

Only the Learn, Work, Play and Talk zones had named sponsors, while sponsors for two areas — the Spirit zone and the Sleep Zone — have not yet been identified.

But yesterday the minister insisted that £100 million had now been "identified". Pressed by Tory MP Michael Fabricant on whether that meant the money was actually available, he said: "Emphatically yes. Irrevocably? I don't see why they should retract."

He said that, with £100 mil-

lion raised between February and July, he was optimistic that the £100 million target would be met. "As people see more and more that we are on time and on target, confidence is rising," he insisted.

He said BA, whose chief executive Bob Ayling is also chairman of NMEC, was publicly committed to backing the Global Zone, although a detailed contract had not yet been signed. Marks & Spencer would back the National Identity "UK@Now" Zone.

It also emerged that Tony Blair has set up a committee to plan the Dome's future after the big exhibition. Options include an international convention centre, sporting and leisure uses.

But Mr Mandelson, quoting the Prime Minister's "it's too good to pull down" tribute at the topping-out ceremony a fortnight ago, said there would be "no precipitate, premature decisions because it's not until it's up and running that people will see its full potential".

On-message McDonagh confirmed as first woman in charge of Labour

Anne Perkins

TONY Blair delivered the final blow to the bid Labour Party would yesterday when he confirmed Margaret McDonagh as the party's first woman general secretary, the first in recent times not to come from a union, and the first to have worked her way up through the party ranks.

"Margaret's effective, hard-working and totally devoted to the party and the people we seek to serve," the Prime Minister said last night after announcing her promotion from deputy to the outgoing general secretary, Tom Sawyer, recently made a peer, in a move which will ensure party organisation and leadership pursue identical objectives.

Ms McDonagh, 37, faces the tough task of managing the party's inevitable reverses after the heady days of last year's landslide election victory. Her first tests will be next May's local elections, together



Margaret McDonagh rose through party ranks

with elections in Scotland and Wales, swiftly followed by June's European elections. She said yesterday: "Labour is a great organisation that allows people like me to work their way up from being a party activist to achieving this post."

She joined Labour while at school and began work-

ing as a volunteer agent in what is now her sister Sloan's constituency, Mitcham and Morden. At the last election, she was credited with transforming the party's campaigning techniques, and introducing blitzing, where party workers flood an area to contact voters.

She has been involved in developing the controversial new MPs' contract which links performance in Parliament and in the constituency with support from party headquarters at the next election, and in equally controversial new techniques for selecting party candidates for councils and the new Welsh and Scottish parliaments. She has a master's degree in advanced marketing.

A former colleague said: "Margaret delivers, she's 100 per cent reliable. Anything she does, works." Despite a reputation for being "cold and intimidating", she is also credited with the wooing of celebrity converts and senior newspaper people to the New Labour cause.

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The Link

They are so accustomed to use threatening demonstrations of solidarity as bond-performing rituals that they see the mere fact of antiquity as itself a justification. Mary Midgley on morals and the Orange Order

This section page 15

BBC unveils digital radio revolution

Chris Barry

THE BBC yesterday unveiled the first digital radio sets, forecasting a revolution for listeners and pledging new music, travel and news services.

BBC director of radio Matthew Bannister said the quality of digital was "stunning", with the first digital radios due to go on sale in the next three months. Mr Bannister said pilot broadcasts of a new music station and traffic data would begin within six months.

Children will be able to listen to a story with words and pictures on screen, football fans will listen to match commentaries with the latest scores on-screen, and music fans vote in the Eurovision song contest by pushing a button.

BBC officials acknowledged that the pictures could see radio competing more directly with television, though the small screen has been designed to carry text and video stills rather than moving pictures.

Digital technology offers clearer sound, easier tuning and the capacity to cram many more stations on to the airwaves.

A BBC radio designed by IDEO and on display yesterday had a screen to receive pictures and text, the ability to store news bulletins, and fast touch screen tuning.

Pioneer, Clarion, Blaupunkt, Grundig and Kenwood unveiled the first digital radios for general sale. Initially for cars, they will cost £500 to £1,200.

Admitting that the prices were high, the manufacturers said they would fall as the radios were built and sold in larger numbers. The CD market had begun the same way, with early CD players then costing £900 in today's money.

Mr Bannister said the BBC had developed a hi-fi tuner which would cost the consumer just £200 so long as 50,000 of them were built by the factory a year.

He said the BBC knew of other companies close to launching digital radios.

The BBC is keen to foster the development of digital radio because the medium forms a cornerstone of its services to the public and justification of the licence fee. Some 36 million people listen to BBC radio every week.

The BBC is planning a new rock service to run on digital radio, which will have to be agreed by the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, and needs a series of legal agreements covering intellectual property rights. But it could become a powerful extra service, drawing on the broadcaster's huge archives built up over 30 years.

The corporation is also keen to extend its Asian network service from the Midlands to national coverage at breakfast time, and would step up live sport coverage.

MTV, the television music channel, announced it was setting up a company to sell tailor-made programmes to the thousands of radio stations broadcasting in Europe.



Wild salmon stocks have slumped so much that the Government may have to ban rod and net fishing at the start of the season to conserve stocks

PHOTOGRAPH: PETER JORDAN

Ban on salmon fishing looms

John Vidal

WILD salmon numbers have fallen so low that the Government may ban all rod and net fishing at the start of each season to conserve stocks.

The prospect of no spring fly-fishing for the first time is expected to infuriate Scottish landowners and stun thousands of passionate salmon fly-fishers.

The Environment Agency,

which regulates river fishing, said that salmon catches in 1992 were among the worst on record, with the overall level of spawning well below what is needed to maintain a healthy population of fish.

In response to scientific advice given to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation, charged by governments and the EU to protect salmon stocks, the Environment Agency said yesterday it may have to recommend that the Govern-

ment takes draconian new measures.

They include a two month ban on all spring salmon fishing, byelaws to make all fishers release catches back into the water and strict quotas for every river.

The agency has begun consultations with groups of fishermen, ecologists and other government advisory groups, and is expected to report by the autumn in time for laws to be introduced by the new year. Other countries with

salmon stocks formulating similar plans.

The agency has already developed a plan to conserve stocks and many salmon rivers in England and Wales now have voluntary conservation agreements with fishermen, who are being encouraged to return the majority of catches.

But the plan will not be complete until 2002 and these measures may not be enough, said a spokesman yesterday. "The situation is now so seri-

ous that something must be done. Significant further reductions are needed to avoid further decline.

"It is essential that we act to protect stocks where we can and this consultation is the first step to introducing national restrictions on catch."

The reasons for the wild salmon's decline are disputed, ranging from more salmon farms, to changes in temperature in the north Atlantic and more poaching.

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Getty finds home for Caxton

Billionaire says £4.6m book will stay in Britain

Dan Gleister Arts Correspondent

THE new owner of the most expensive second-hand book in the world — sold for £4.6 million at Christie's on Wednesday — is the American billionaire philanthropist Paul Getty, it emerged yesterday.

Mr Getty has vowed to keep the William Caxton edition of The Canterbury Tales in Britain and on public exhibition. There were fears that a foreign buyer would attempt to take the volume abroad.

The Getty Museum bought the Three Graces in 1995, and the government



Paul Getty: 'Never dared to expect to own such a book'

imposed an export stop. However, Mr Getty said yesterday: "I have always hoped that it might be sold one day by the family, but never dared to expect that I

would be able to own such a book and ensure its retention in this country. This copy has been known by collectors since it featured in the exhibition of English poetry organised by John Hayward as part of the Festival of Britain celebrations in 1951."

The book was sold by the Fitzwilliam family with other objects from their new empty home in Yorkshire, Wentworth Woodhouse.

Robert Harding of Maggs Brothers, whose representatives bought the work at Christie's on behalf of the oil heir, said the volume would initially be kept at Sir Paul's Buckinghamshire estate.

"At the moment it will be stored in his library, to which scholars have access. A decision has not yet been taken as to what will happen to it in the end."

News in brief

Scare over UK mussels

TWO groups of diners smitten by mussel poisoning have raised fears of a food menace not seen in Britain for 50 years, it was disclosed in the Lancet yesterday.

The 49 people who ate at two London restaurants suffered acute nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, and feverishness lasting eight hours. All had been served dishes of British mussels. Doctors diagnosed diarrhetic shellfish poisoning (DSP) arising from phyco-toxins produced by small marine organisms. Although imported mussels caused an outbreak of DSP in 1994, the outbreak in June last year was the first incident for 30 years caused by phyco-toxin contamination of UK shellfish.

Painted into a corner

FOOTBALLER Vinny Jones will switch from running and tackling to painting and decorating as part of his punishment for assaulting a neighbour, it was revealed yesterday.

The 33-year-old Welsh international has been ordered by probation officers to do unpaid work refurbishing community buildings, such as schools, hospitals, charity premises and council offices, near his home in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

Last week, the Queens Park Rangers assistant manager — a former bricklayer — was sentenced to 100 hours' community service by St Albans magistrates court after being found guilty of punching, kicking and biting riding instructor Timothy Gear in a row over a stile.

Kenya death sentences

TWO men have been sentenced to death for the murder of British tourist Roy Chivers in a Kenyan safari camp in February, it emerged yesterday. Peter Huhni Gachera, and Simon Njoroge Wairimu were convicted by the court in Nairobi on Wednesday, the East African Standard reported.

Chivers, a retired policeman from Essex, was robbed and stabbed in the chest while on an early morning game walk with his wife Sandra at the Aberdare Country Club. Mrs Chivers returned to Kenya in May to give evidence at the trial. The defendants have already been sentenced to death for another murder, the newspaper said.

Street star loses in court

CORONATION STREET star Bill Roache yesterday failed in the High Court in Manchester in an attempt to sue solicitors Peter Carter-Ruck over advice given when he sued the Sun.

A jury found the paper had libellously branded him "boring" and said he was disliked by most other cast members. But the Sun had earlier paid £50,000 into court in an offer to settle, and the jury's award was exactly that, meaning Mr Roache had to pay his costs and the Sun's — an estimated £120,000 in total.

Mr Roache claimed Carter-Ruck had not told him in detail of the costs risk. The judge said yesterday Mr Roache was advised he had a 90/40 chance of far more than £50,000; he decided to take that chance but had been "very unlucky".

Four years for killing

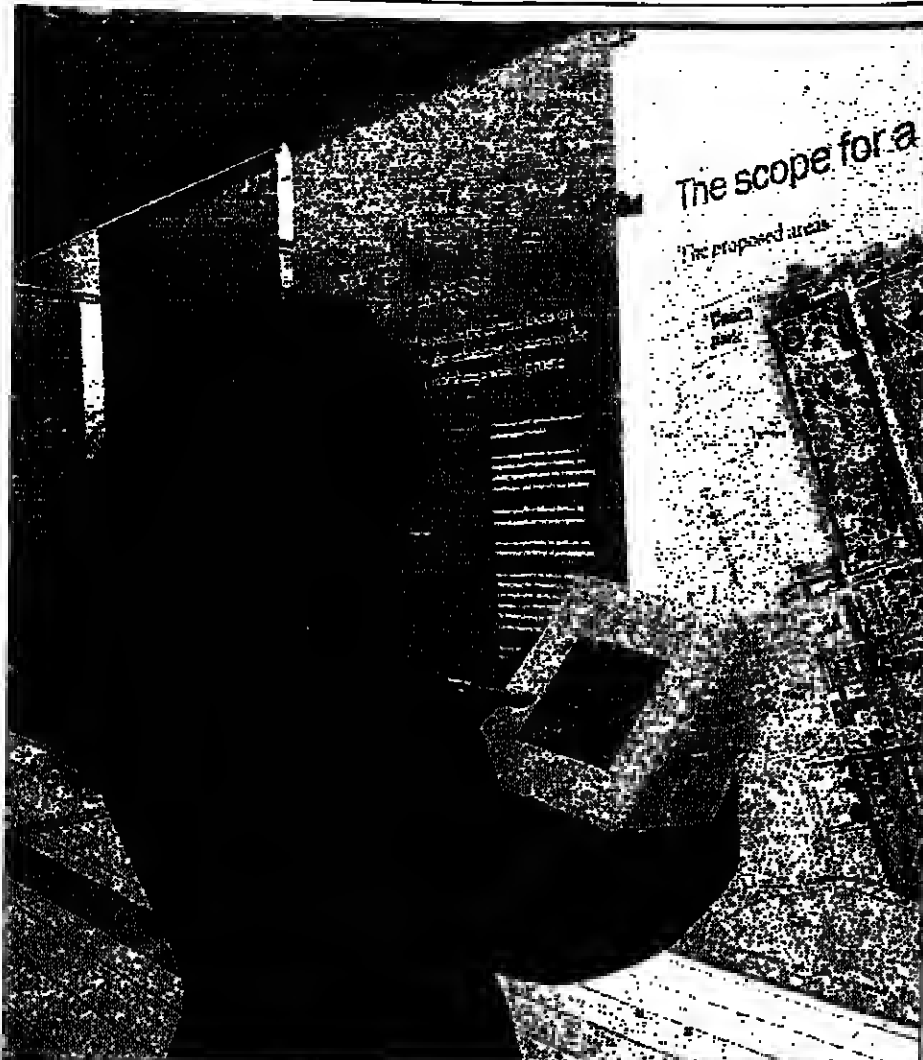
A JEALOUS woman who stabbed her Swiss lesbian lover to death after she danced erotically with a man on New Year's Eve was cleared of her murder at the Old Bailey yesterday.

But traffic warden Barbara Hughes, 33, from south London, was jailed for four years after the jury found her guilty of the manslaughter of Romana Abban. Hughes, originally from Bolton, said she was furious when she saw Miss Abban rubbing herself against a man while dancing in a wine bar. But she denied murdering her 31-year-old lover.

The court heard how Hughes stabbed Miss Abban through the heart with a steak knife during a drunken row after they had returned home later that night.

Senna did enough in 1994 to convince most people that he was still the best. But at just 29, Schumacher has the time to break all the records.

Sport98 page 8



A visitor to the exhibition inspects plans for the memorial garden. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Focal point of £10m Diana memorial 'to be water jet'

Helen Carter on unveiling of controversial garden scheme to honour the princess

A HUGE water jet could become the focal point of a memorial garden to Diana, Princess of Wales, in the grounds of Kensington Palace, her former London home.

The controversial plan for 27 acres of garden at the rear of the palace, close to the area where a carpet of bouquets was laid last year, could cost £10 million.

Yesterday the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Committee unveiled a three section memorial at an exhibition at the Albert Memorial Visitors Centre in Kensington Gore. It proposes a garden with a children's theme to the north of the palace with a play area

and touch-and-smell garden for blind visitors. The childhood theme continues with suggestions for a secret garden as well as plants and flowers in Diana's favourite colours.

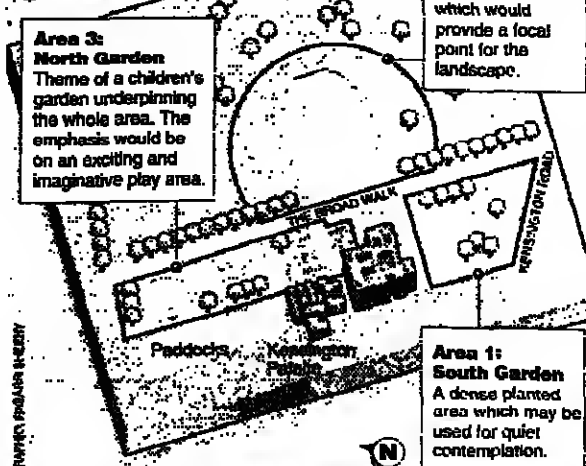
To the south would be an area for quiet contemplation, with a densely planted traffic screen.

The sections would be linked by a 100ft water jet in the centre of the Round Pond, which would be lit up at night.

A memorial walkway to Westminster through the Royal Parks is also mooted.

Since Diana's death last August, the number of visitors who have flocked to Kensington Palace Gardens has increased dramatically

The Diana memorial garden



and residents fear a memorial will exacerbate traffic congestion.

But the committee argues that ideas involving gardens and fountains were among the most popular of the 10,000 suggestions.

Despite overwhelming public support, there is growing disquiet among residents, which has culminated in public meetings where people have voiced their concerns.

The consultation has been organised by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, on behalf of the memorial committee. The art critic, Brian Sewell, attacked the organisers for failing to present detailed proposals. He said: "This is



Brian Sewell: Exhibition organisers 'guilty of deceit'

an exercise in deceit. It is so cowardly that they put up a plan and yet show nothing of the design. If they want a tribute to Diana, then they should leave the gardens as they were when she was alive."

Knightbridge Association spokeswoman Peggy Walsley said the scheme would add to traffic problems. "There is a terrific feeling in the area against the proposals. The number of visitors has already increased since Diana's death and who knows whether the numbers will double or treble if the garden goes ahead."

Before a final decision on the details, residents are being asked for their comments. They can fill in and return a questionnaire by August 7, while a full environmental impact assessment is taking place.

People who are unable to visit the exhibition centre in the next three weeks can read about the proposals on the Internet at www.dianagarden.org.uk.

Diana's former butler, Paul Burrell, who is a member of the memorial committee, said it would be a simple, quiet place for contemplation, not a Disneyland for Diana.

The chairman, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, said: "I know some of those living locally are concerned about how they might be affected by them. However, I believe people will be reassured when they have a chance to see the proposals properly."

Royal tactics shift as Camilla meets William

Luke Harding

THE Prince of Wales's discreet strategy of news management took a step forward yesterday when royal aides confirmed Prince William had met his father's companion Camilla Parker Bowles for the first time.

In a move which would have been unthinkable a decade ago, a spokeswoman for the Prince of Wales said details of the meeting as reported in yesterday's Sun were accurate. The Sun held off publication for 24 hours, following a request from Charles, who wanted to inform William that the story was to appear.

The 30-minute meeting took

place at St James's Palace last month, with Charles present. The encounter, on Friday June 12, came about when 16-year-old William dropped in unexpectedly at the Palace, where Mrs Parker Bowles has become a regular visitor.

Since then William and Mrs Parker Bowles, who is 51 next week, have met twice more, for tea and at a shared lunch.

Royal insiders now expect Mrs Parker Bowles to meet Prince Harry, 13, for the first time sooner rather than later.

The meeting between William and Camilla will fuel speculation that the Prince of Wales plans a greater public role for his long-time companion, in the run-up to his 50th birthday in November. They have yet to appear in public together — and remarriage has not been ruled out.

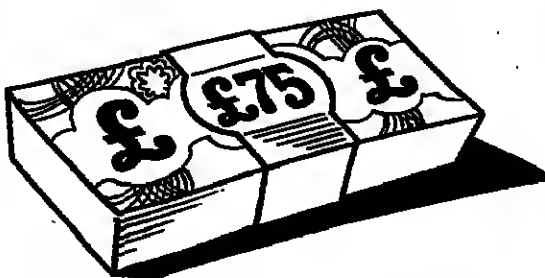


Parker Bowles: lunch and tea

A transparent campaign to "introduce" Mrs Parker Bowles to public life began after Charles's divorce. But it was abandoned following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, last year.

A spokeswoman for the Prince of Wales said yesterday: "Yes, Prince William and Mrs Parker Bowles have met. Meetings between the children and Mrs Parker Bowles are a private family matter, which we are not prepared to discuss, and we hope for their sakes, the media will now leave this very personal matter alone."

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Nigerians await sign from junta on reforms

Alex Duval Smith in Lagos

THE FATE of more than 200 political prisoners was high on the agenda when Nigeria's ruling military council met for a second day in the capital Abuja yesterday to discuss moves towards reform, state radio said.

But the country's largest city, Lagos, was still gripped by speculation about the cause of death of Nigeria's most prominent prisoner, Moshoo Abiola, on Tuesday.

Amid the continuing tension in Lagos, the governing body for the city imposed an overnight curfew, lasting from 8pm to 6am. It is to continue until further notice.

Street violence — which claimed a reported 45 lives after the death of Abiola, the presumed winner of presidential elections in 1993 — was reported to have been quelled by the ruling clique — but mostly died down yesterday. But Lagos roads remained deserted and there were reports of clashes on the outskirts.

A journalist in an outlying area reported: "People were throwing sticks and broken bottles and there was also looting." Ethnic animosities lay behind much of the unrest.

Supporters of Abiola, who is thought to have been on the verge of release when he died at a meeting with a United States delegation, held the military regime responsible for neglecting the prisoner's health. Many ordinary Nigerians believe he was poisoned. The government says he died of a heart attack.

A team of foreign pathologists, including Dr Richard Shepherd from St George's Hospital, London, arrived in Lagos last night to take part in a post-mortem — at the request of the government and with the family's blessing. Abiola's body is thought to have been brought to Lagos from Abuja, for an autopsy today.

As mourners arrived at Abiola's home in Lagos yesterday, some 200 students gathered outside to call for an independent state for Yorubas — the ethnic group he belonged to which dominates the south-west of Nigeria. The government, by contrast, is

made up mostly of northern Hausa people. Addressing the students, Gani Fawehinmi, Abiola's lawyer, said: "Abiola represented the unity of this country. They [the regime] killed the unity. Now there will no longer be one Nigeria."

The outcome of the meeting of the provisional ruling council will give the international community a sign as to the intentions of General Abdulsalam Abubakar, who succeeded General Sani Abacha a month ago when Abacha — the dictator who jailed Abiola in 1994 to quash his claim to the presidency — himself died of a heart attack.

Gen. Abubakar has disbanded the secretive cabinet which advised his predecessor and, in an address to the nation on Wednesday, called for calm and promised to restore democracy to the huge oil-producing country.

Shortly after coming to power, he ordered the release of about 30 detainees, including journalists and lawyers.

This earned him the attention of the European Union, which sent an envoy. Other recent emissaries pressing for democracy and the release of Abiola were the Commonwealth's secretary-general, Emeke Anyaoku, the United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, and a US under-secretary of state, Thomas Pickering, whom Abiola was meeting when he died.

Nigeria has been under partial international sanctions and has been excluded from the Commonwealth because of human rights abuses and Gen. Abacha's annulment of the 1993 elections.

State-run radio said the council meeting would discuss "what happens to the remaining political detainees and the yet-to-be-announced transition programme. The fate of the coup plotters will also be determined," it said — referring to a former Nigerian number two, Lieutenant-General Oladipo Diya, found guilty of plotting to oust Abacha.

Underlining the fact that the international community is keen to restore trade and diplomatic links with Nigeria, South Africa's deputy president, Thabo Mbeki, arrived for talks in Abuja yesterday.



The tranquility of a Phnom Penh street, where a Cambodian nun has her head shaved yesterday, contrasts with killings being carried out behind the scenes against opposition figures before elections on July 26. PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD VOGEL

News in brief

EU creche staff face child rape charges

TWO MEN have been charged with raping and indecently assaulting young children of European Commission officials in Brussels. The accused men, an Italian and a Spaniard, were employed at the Commission-owned creche in Boulevard Clovis, just a short walk from Commission headquarters. They left their jobs after allegations of child abuse emerged last year and are in Italy and Spain, but will be required to return to face a trial which is unlikely before next year. The abuse is alleged to have taken place in the first six months of last year, but not on the creche premises. Both men insist they are innocent. — *PA, Brussels.*

Gibraltar urges talks

GIBRALTAR'S government pressed Spain yesterday to honour a promise to hold direct talks on the colony's future. "I am ready to meet whenever and wherever they want," the chief minister, Peter Caruana, said during a visit to Madrid. Spain's foreign minister, Abel Matutes, invited Mr Caruana to discuss a new proposal for shared sovereignty of the Rock last April, reversing a policy of only talking to the British government about the issue. But no date has been set. "We are waiting for Madrid to do so," Mr Caruana said. In a conciliatory move, Mr Caruana offered to allow Spain to use and co-develop the colony's airport, so passengers travelling to Spain would not need to pass Gibraltar immigration controls. — *Adela Gooch, Madrid.*

Gold 'may be from Jews'

TONS of gold that Sweden received in business dealings with Nazi Germany may have included gold looted from Jews, a commission said yesterday in an interim report to the government. But it said there was no evidence that any of the gold came from death camps. Sweden received 30.4 tons of gold between 1940-44. After the war, Sweden returned 13.2 tons of gold to Belgium and the Netherlands after determining that it had been plundered by the Nazis from their central banks. — *AP, Stockholm.*

Quake hits Azores islands

A STRONG earthquake hit the Portuguese mid-Atlantic Azores islands yesterday, killing 10 people and injuring around 90, civil protection officials said. The prime minister, Antonio Guterres, departed for the worst hit island, Faial, to inspect damage as the central government sent in a team of doctors and nurses, medical supplies, and sniffer dogs to help find people buried under the rubble of their homes. An airforce plane brought tents for 1,000 homeless, almost a tenth of the population of Faial. Rescue workers said they feared more people could be buried under the rubble. — *Reuters, Lisbon.*

Spanish airport strikes

SPANISH trade unions yesterday announced strike action intended to paralyse the country's airports for three key holiday days beginning July 31. The strike call affecting all 41 Spanish airports came just as Madrid's Barajas airport was recovering from weeks of baggage chaos and delays triggered by technical problems due to the introduction of a new traffic control system. The unions have called the 8,000 workers employed by the national airports authority out on strike because "20 months of talks have failed to produce any progress in the negotiation of a new collective contract", a union spokesman, Francisco Valenzuela, said. — *AP, Madrid.*

Rape suspect sent on holiday

LACKING treatment facilities for a 15-year-old rape suspect, Oslo child welfare authorities sent him on a foreign holiday with two child-care professionals. The suspect was arrested on charges of raping a 22-year-old shop clerk in June. The two-week car trip cost £4,000, the Oslo newspaper Aftenposten reported yesterday. — *AP, Oslo.*

Japan's barnstorming PM tries to hold on as election looms

Lost seats in Sunday's upper house election could cost the unpopular Ryutaro Hashimoto his job, writes Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

Japan's Upper House election

Half of the 252 seats in the House of Councillors are being contested

	Number of upper house seats	Number of seats being contested	Forecast seat
Liberal Democratic Party	118	60	60
Democratic Party of Japan	38	15	21
Social Democratic Party	28	12	5
Komei	26	11	9
Japan Communist Party	14	6	12
Liberal Party	12	5	3
Others	26	14	16
Voters/252	2	0	0



Ryutaro Hashimoto: Flurry to secure enough votes

In a sign of how worried the prime minister is about the outcome, he reportedly ordered his team to draw up a new campaign strategy this week. He has also changed his schedule so that he can canvass in the marginal constituencies of Osaka and Miyagi prefectures, which he had hoped to have secured by now.

The LDP initially hoped to win 69 seats in this election, which, combined with the 58 seats it has that are not being contested this time, would give the party a majority in the upper chamber for the first time in nine years.

Although the House of Councillors is not as powerful

However, votes have been less easy to sway amid anger about the economy and unemployment, which is at a post-war high of 4.1 per cent.

Many voters say the government's decision to raise the consumption tax last year is directly responsible for the downturn, which is widely referred to as the "Hashimoto recession". As a result, the prime minister's disapproval ratings have reached 60 per cent, the highest since he took office in January 1996.

The LDP has also harmed itself on the central issue of tax cuts. Senior figures have issued sharply contradictory statements which have sug-

gested internal squabbling, incompetence and deceit about how reductions would be funded. Mr Hashimoto's statement on Wednesday that he favoured permanent "publicly acceptable" income tax cuts raised more questions than it answered.

The opposition, however, is too weak to capitalise on such confusion. The LDP's main rival is the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), a hotchpotch of unionists and conservatives who have little more than opportunism in common. Their leader is Naoto Kan, the politician that most Japanese would like to see as

prime minister, but his personal popularity has not spread to his party. The DPJ is expected to win only 21 seats on Sunday — it has 18 up for re-election — having managed to cobble together just 48 candidates. For most of the post-war period, the Social Democratic Party led the opposition, but it has lost credibility since joining its erstwhile ideological enemies, the LDP, in a governing alliance. The party quit the coalition in June, but it is struggling to retain even half of the 12 seats it is defending.

By contrast, the Communist Party of Japan is tipped to win 12 seats, twice as many as it has up for grabs. Faced with such a poor choice, many people are expected to shun the elections, despite an extension of the polling hours. Political analysts suggest that disillusionment could work in Mr Hashimoto's favour. "Both the LDP and the opposition are incompetent," said Kaoru Okana, professor of political science at Meiji University. "But when both are bad, the bigger one — in this case the LDP — tends to win."

Even if the ruling party loses seats, the prime minister may survive by default. Despite strong discontent about his leadership, there is no obvious alternative. Few are willing to take on the task of clearing up the banking system — the main job facing the government and one which is likely to lead to greater unemployment.

'Both the LDP and the opposition are incompetent. But when both are bad, the bigger one tends to win'

as the lower House of Representatives, which can select the prime minister and direct policy, it can frustrate the government by holding up legislation.

For the past three years, the LDP has had to form a coalition with two smaller parties to pass its bills in the upper house.

The LDP is by far the best organised of the political parties and is backed by most of Japan's 600,000 construction companies, which will benefit from the public works plans included in the government's latest £70 billion stimulus package.

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77 suspects accused of passing on military secrets

Beirut says Israeli spy ring cracked

Julian Borger in Jerusalem

CLAIMING to have broken an extensive Israeli spy ring, the Lebanese government yesterday charged 77 people with passing military information to the Jewish state and attempting to destabilise Lebanon by fomenting ethnic tensions.

Security officials said 17 suspects had been arrested two weeks ago, mostly in villages near the Israeli-run southern "security zone", and the remaining 60 were being hunted. Some are thought to have escaped into the zone, which serves as a buffer between northern Israel and Iranian-backed Hizbullah guerrillas.

The suspects are accused of gathering information about military movements by Lebanese, Syrian and Hizbullah forces. The Lebanese prosecutor told reporters the accused also took part in terrorist acts, including an attack on a minibus full of Syrian workers. He said they were trying to stir up enmity between Lebanese ethnic groups, and hostility towards Syrian workers and the 35,000 Syrian troops garrisoned in Lebanon.

An Israeli security spokesman said he was checking the reports but added that nor-

mally there was no comment on intelligence matters.

Gideon Ezra, former head of the Shin Bet security service's northern district and now an MP in Israel's ruling Likud party, told army radio: "It's completely clear that even if there is something true in this report, Israel can neither confirm nor deny things like this."

Reports in the Beirut press say the suspects were recruited in 1995 and trained in Israel. They are charged with having sent classified information in letters written in invisible ink to an Athens post office box run by Israeli military intelligence. In return for cash payments, one suspect is accused of receiving \$4,500 for 11 letters.

The arrests follow the defection of a senior intelligence officer from the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army, Rafah Ward, who reportedly handed himself over to Lebanese forces at a checkpoint several weeks ago, offering information on Israeli-run spy networks.

Lebanese reports said the suspects were working for Unit 504 of Israeli army intelligence, which normally recruits and runs agents in neighbouring Arab countries.

Yossi Melman, a journalist and author specialising in Israeli secret services, said the

Lebanese claims had some credibility because a constant, intense intelligence war was being fought in south Lebanon.

But he added: "It's obviously a super-exaggeration. If they were working for 504, they were just gathering information. They don't get involved in anything like attacks or assassinations. And 77 people? There are no networks as big as 77 people. But what often happens is that whole families or clans get arrested at a time."

Unit 504 came under scrutiny last September, when an Israeli raid against a strong hold of the Shi'ite Amal militia ran into an ambush, costing the lives of 11 naval commandos. At the time it was claimed the ambush proved the existence of a Lebanese double-agent in Unit 504, although a later inquiry concluded that the commando unit had simply been unlucky.

The Lebanese prosecutor in charge of the case said the charges ranged from entering enemy territory, for which the maximum penalty is one year in prison, to passing information to the enemy, which carries the death sentence. Last year Lebanon's military court sentenced 97 Lebanese men to 15 years in jail with hard labour for collaborating with Israel.



Police and explosives experts examine an area of Istanbul's 17th-century Egyptian bazaar known as the spice market, where an apparent gas leak caused a strong blast, killing six people including two children and wounding more than 100 local people and foreign tourists. PHOTOGRAPH: MURAD SEZER

Key Algiers rebel 'dead'

David Hirst in Beirut

ALGIERIA'S security forces say they have killed one of the most notorious leaders of the Islamic insurgency in the country.

Athmane Khelifa, leader of the Groupe Islamique Armé (GIA) for Algiers region, and better known by his nom de guerre Hocine Filcha, was shot dead together with 10 of his lieutenants after a day-long operation in the wooded heights above the capital, the government forces announced yesterday.

If confirmed, this is an important success for the gov-

ernment. The GIA is the fanatical wing of the Islamic underground. It has broken with the mainstream Islamic Salvation Front, and Filcha was one of its most dangerous and longest-serving commanders.

The operation began on the Bouzareah heights on Wednesday afternoon and ended yesterday with the annihilation of Filcha's gang of "dangerous criminals", the official announcement said. A large quantity of arms and homemade bombs was also seized.

Filcha's stronghold was the Casbah, the labyrinthine heart of old Algiers. He was born there and knew it inti-

mately. The authorities had put a price of 2 million dinars (about £30,000) on his head. But time and again, reports of his death in the Algiers press proved false.

This time, the government's claim sounds more convincing.

It has named eight of the 10 killed with him. Identification of the two others is in progress, it said.

But the GIA is less a single national structure than a collection of autonomous organisations operating locally. Every time the leader of a group is killed a new one seems to spring up in his place.

Mubarak's Libya trip seen as scam

Sam Black
Diplomatic Editor

PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak of Egypt punched a hole in the wall of sanctions imposed on Libya over the Lockerbie bombing when he flew in yesterday with a team of doctors to examine Muammar Gaddafi's broken hip.

Mr Mubarak's flight, trumpeted by the Libyan media, went ahead only after Egypt obtained special permission from the United Nations committee monitoring the sanctions. The United States and

Britain, demanding the handover of two Libyan intelligence officers accused of being behind the December 1988 explosion aboard a jumbo jet over the Scottish town of Lockerbie — which killed 270 people — had little choice but to approve the mercy mission.

"Of course it's a scam," said one diplomat, "but there's simply no way we could have opposed it."

Egypt has taken the lead in the Arab world in lobbying for an end to the sanctions. President Mubarak was accompanied by a team of four or five doctors offering their expertise after

Colonel Gaddafi underwent surgery on Monday on a hip said to have been broken while exercising.

The sanctions, in force since 1992, include a ban on flights in and out of Libya. Exceptions may be granted on humanitarian, religious and other grounds.

Humanitarian or not, Libya saw the trip as a political triumph. State television broadcast the Mubarak arrival live, and later showed Col Gaddafi in a wheelchair welcoming him. The Libyan dictator also received the members of a Tunisian medical team sent to him by President

Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali. On Monday the presidents of Chad and Niger defied an Anglo-American warning and flew in to join the colonial for celebrations of the Prophet Mohammed's birthday. Visitors included the American Muslim leader, Louis Farrakhan.

Since the surgery — seen by Libyans on television on Tuesday — Col Gaddafi, aged 56, is reported to be in good condition and resumed normal work on Wednesday. President Mubarak has visited Libya many times since 1992 but has always driven across the border.



Muammar Gaddafi: Friends come calling

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Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

TENSION between the Diary and its editor-in-chief Peter Mandelson rises alarmingly (no it doesn't. Everything's fine. PM), and this may be the last column written under his aegis. After such a difficult week, the minister without portfolio's contrariness is excusable (no it isn't), but enough is enough (no it's not). For Mandy (use that name again and it's over. I'm warning you.) things may be looking up. Margaret McDonald, his long-term protégé, has been appointed Labour's General Secretary. Margaret is adored by colleagues for her unabashed love of meritism, something never better expressed than when, at a pre-election Millbank meeting, she intoned: "Anyone who doesn't wake up in the morning thinking Labour is the party of low taxes should not be working in this building." With such laid back good humour, she does Mandy the greatest of credit. (Right, that's it. I'll be speaking to your editor about you, young man, you can rely on that. Coat and gloves, Benjamin, we're leaving.)

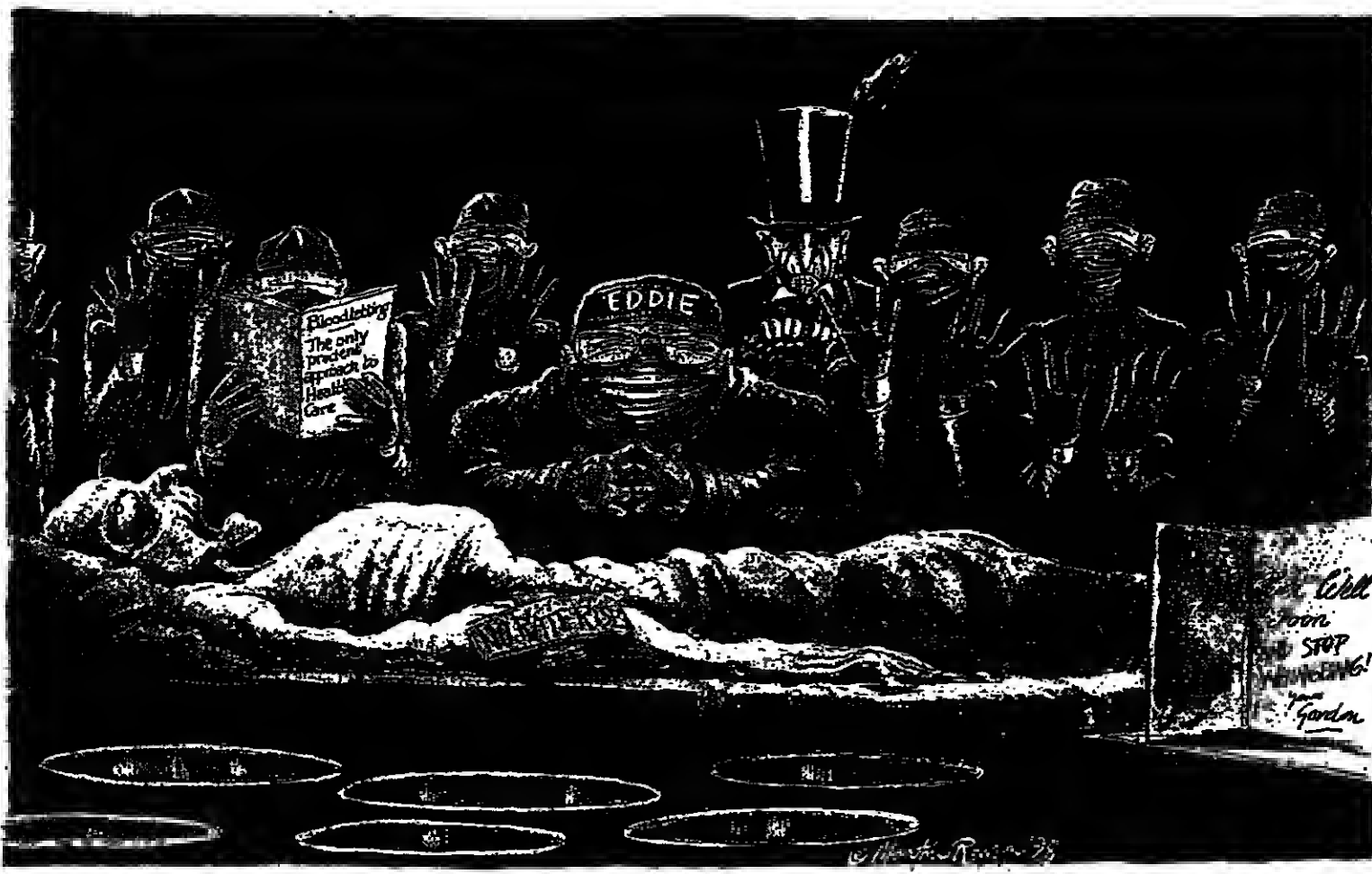
AS for Dolly, expressions of loyalty from friends, on the lines of Mandy's "be a rampant liar and not quite right in the head" paeon on Monday, continue to flood in. When his expulsion from the party was proposed at a PLP meeting on Wednesday night, close political allies such as Stephen Twigg and Lorna Fitzsimons, the appetite MP for Rochdale, said not a word in Dolly's defence. Yea, even as Peter denied Christ twice at the crowing of the cock...

MEANWHILE, this month's edition of Dolly's Progress magazine arrives. Apart from a message from Mr Tony Blair — "Come to Progress's Members and Ministers events," he counsels — and articles by Frank Field and Iain Duncan Smith, there is a timely inclusion called the "welfare pull-out". My own favourite feature is "What's with Robin Cook?" Good old Dolly, a trouper to the last.

THIS you won't believe, but for the third time in a year my friend Helen Brinton takes a formal complaint to the police. This time she has been the victim not of train crime, as usual, but racist literature from the British National Party. The Peterborough Herald reports that the andro MP has been sent the BNP magazine and postcards, "some of which contained obscene suggestions". The BNP and other neo-fascist outfits continually send their literature to countless people (myself included). Where the andro MP shows such depth of thinking is rewarding them with the publicity they crave by complaining, rather than simply tossing the nonsense in the bin like everyone else. She's going to the top to Helen, and nothing's going to stop her getting there.

IT is parties that concern the Spectator's Sunshine Boys this week. Paul Johnson has been to a diplomatic bash, where for some reason he dropped an uneaten hamburger in the handbag of "a large, foreign battic-axe". A very naughty boy indeed. As for Taki George, he cunningly sidesteps the suspicion that the mag can tend toward the tasteless by writing about attending a garden party given by my sane and rational friend. There, while serving Alan Clark a Buck's Fizz, T-G attempted a drollery. "For a joke," he writes, "I said who the hell is Frank Field?" Mm.

WHILE Matron staples our sides back together, thoughts turn to the column last week in which Taki-George boasted of defending Hitler's Wehrmacht in public. The loyalty of his pal Conrad Black in continuing to employ him does the job. Spectator's owner great credit (if only Dolly had such friends). We can only pray that Mr Black's vital business contacts all over North America remain blissfully ignorant that he pays a man money to declare his admiration for Hitler. Some of them, we suspect, should they learn of this peculiar fact, would take a rather dim view.



Ginger Spice and Derek Draper? They're just too damned ambitious

Decca Aitkenhead



WHENEVER someone remarks of an unassuming colleague, "He's terribly ambitious, you know," I find myself feeling oddly shocked. Of course he must be ambitious. I remind myself. He's an editor, and they usually are. It's rather like being reminded that your colleagues have sex lives. I know they do really, and I think about it. I know that they must often be motivated by sexual ambitions. But I very seldom think about it, and when it's pointed out to me I'm faintly disturbed. The problem isn't that they'd like to get this job or that woman. It's the fact that they're acting as if nothing could be further from their mind, when secretly they're thinking of nothing else. It's all the future engineering of circumstance. It's all that stuff in their head.

In the 90s, ambition is a problematic concept. Fifteen years ago, it was fairly straightforward: Julie Burchill's novel, *Ambition*, opened with a young newspaper woman coolly killing her superior in order to advance her career, and as the plot progressed this proved to be one of the heroine's more tame acts of ambition. The novel proved to be an 80s bestseller.

To be ambitious then wasn't simply OK, it was compulsory. A bright young thing without goals was morally suspect, an affront to civic duty and self-fulfilment. Even to entertain quiet dreams was not enough. One had to be boastfully, gloriously ambitious, and fluent in the language of people who introduced themselves with adjectives like "goal-driven". No presentation at a sales and marketing conference was complete without a blast of

Tina Turner's *Simply The Best*. Like Tina Turner, ambition is now unfashionable. Derek Draper discovered this over the course of the week, when he found himself accused of various things. He has denied any official wrongdoing, and pleaded guilty to being "boastful and brash". Both these charges have been the subject of much scrutiny, but a third charge is also interesting. "What exactly am I accused of?" Draper demanded. "Being ambitious?" It was a rhetorical question, but the answer, it appears, is yes.

"Who are you, a young pipsqueak, to insult a man like Michael Meacher?" barked a finger-wagging Anthony Howard on Newsnight. "You are a very unwise young man." Howard was flubbing with indignation, and this emotion rippled across the comment pages this week. Men like Draper are denounced not merely on account of what they do, but why they do it. The pipsqueaks are disgustingly ambitious! And, damn it, they don't even have the decency to disguise it.

There are good grounds on which to find a version of ambition disagreeable. Some politicians seek power in order to do something with it, and some novelists write from a compulsion to say something important; some lobbyists lobby ministers because they believe in a particular cause. If in the process they become rich and famous and acclaimed, then so be it.

Then there are others who go into politics to be powerful, write books in order to be celebrated novelists, and bang around Westminster because it makes them rich. Theirs is ambition in its pure, unadulterated state, a desire

to be successful for no other reason than to be successful. Freed from any requirement to do something useful with their success, they are often extremely good at it.

It is said of people like this that they suffer some sort of spiritual void; that in the absence of any inner conviction, they must chase external acclaim. Like snakes wringing themselves around heat, they are sustained only by other people's esteem — and often other people's money.

There is probably something in all of this, for it is a coldly detached way to live. But while it may explain the behaviour of the "pipsqueaks" it doesn't adequately account for everyone else's problem with it. Among Derek Draper's mistakes was not so much the coldness of his ambition, as the nakedness of his ambition. Lots of young people are successful — we have a 15-year-old at number one right now, and a Tory leader who isn't much older — so it cannot be that we disapprove of precocious upstarts. What we require of ambitious people these days, however, is that they act out an elaborate pantomime of sloth as they speed their way to the top.

THE *Idler* magazine, for example, was set up in the 90s by a group of clever young media boys who wished to celebrate the activity of slacking. To be a slacker was, temporarily, a fashionable lifestyle choice. But anyone who has ever tried to get a magazine out will know that the idea of editing a magazine as if by accident is complete rubbish. You do not wake from another afternoon nap to find the latest issue looking at you. But everyone was happy to overlook this

fundamental flaw, in their infatuation with the idea of artless achievement.

There is also an undercurrent of class bias in public perceptions of ambitious young things. When people remember that Michael Heseltine wrote a decade-by-decade career plan on the back of an envelope, which chartered a route through vast wealth to Number 10, you rarely hear them gasp in horror. No one ever asks what good use he planned to put his power to, presumably because they imagined he was entitled to it. Yet when we say of people like Emma Noble, or Ginger Spice — or Derek Draper — that they are "ambitious", we are not being complimentary.

Working class boys and girls are perfectly entitled to be rich and famous, but they must be careful how they do it. A winning lottery ticket is fine, as is the reluctant pursuit of an irrepressible talent, as long as they are bumbled by their own success, and never caught trying to advance it. Emma Noble would be far better off pretending to never dream of being anything more than little old me: it's when people find out that she *even had plastic surgery* to get ahead that they become suspicious.

Some successful people are genuinely without ambition. Most people, however, are ambitious to some degree; it is a human condition, not a tasteless 80s phenomenon which went out with shoulder pads. What went out was our willingness to admit it. Commentators were of course correct this week in wishing everyone were ambitious for the "right" reasons. It would be another improvement if everyone were simply honest about their ambition, whatever its reason.

Tina's traumas

Bill Buford



TINA BROWN, the editor of the New Yorker for two more weeks, does most of her editing by fax. She leads the kind of day that is exhausting to think about — all that no-sleep-trainer-at-dawn-two-breakfast-meetings-before-the-office sort of thing — which leaves only the evening for reading and editorial discussion, to the extent, of course, that a scrawled fax at midnight can be described as an editorial discussion. I have worked with her for just over three years, and for some reason we have a history of misdirected faxes between us. I remember one fax — a particularly abusive one, as it happens ("Bill — why the fuck did you ask me to read this fucking draft?" coming through the machine of a visiting Italian diplomat, staying somewhere in Manhattan, who was so startled to receive it that he faxed back an apology for having been brought into this obviously private editorial conversation, promised to destroy his copy, and vowed — should he ever meet the author in question — not to mention that he wrote fucking draft).

I wonder if he got the fax sent out at two in the morning on Wednesday, inviting me to a meeting about a special issue. I didn't. The subject, of course, was not a special issue, and when I reached the office I found several editors in tears. It was not, they felt, time for Tina to leave. All the editors in the office that morning — the editor of *Talk of the Town*, the books editor, the managing editor, the features editor, me — had come to the New Yorker, persuaded by Tina, to help her fashion the magazine into the best publication in the English language. The job was not done.

MOST of us had not seen her for some time. Her mother died the week before. Wednesday was effectively Tina's first day back. Witnessing her mother's death, she said, was clarifying. And, after she buried her — and experienced that chilling recognition of her own mortality — Tina returned determined to live a life of her choosing. What do I want to do during the next 10 years, she said. She wanted to have fun; she wanted to run her own magazine. She wanted to be a writer.

In the past six months, there has been a curious public row between the people involved in running the New Yorker. The principal parties have been Tina, Tom Florio, who was the New Yorker's publisher until last month, and his elder brother Steve. Tina, who runs Condé Nast, now the magazine's parent company. At stake was the question of who is responsible for the New Yorker's losses. One version, full of confidential details, appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*; a counter version, full of more confidential details, appeared in the *New York Times* — back and forth, culminating in a spectacular hatchet job in the current issue of *Fortune*. The effect, though, was this: Tina, it was clear, was not the one running the place, and Tina, therefore, was in the position to leave with dignity.

What was her achievement? To my mind, a considerable one, and I've been disappointed by the press she's got, citing her more flamboyant miscalculations. In fact, most were self-correcting. Tina, like most creative people, has an ability to enter something like an idea motor mode, in which all kinds of connections get made at extraordinary speed. I recall a meeting in which there was a pile of sweets on the table, and Tina, already in high adrenaline free-flow, was eating them, thinking, one after the other, going faster and faster, the sugar serving to exaggerate the pace and tempo of her thinking, until finally we all screamed for her to slow down. Tina's ideas could be a bit scatter-shot, but she could rely on her judgment, which was exceptional, to correct her more frightening impulses (Roseanne as a guest editor of a woman's issue has been cited in the press here; in the end, tellingly, Roseanne did not edit a woman's issue).

The many ideas that have worked are impressive to consider. She asked the historian Simon Schama to be the art critic; Anthony Lane to be the film critic; and Adam Gopnik to be the Paris correspondent. She stood by Janet Malcolm

She has been here a mere six years. There was so much more to do

during a libel case, and gave over the whole magazine to her account of Sylvia Plath. She adored Updike and Mailer and Vidal. She took on David Remnick, a Pulitzer Prize journalist from the Washington Post, and let him become a star. In fact, she made many journalists into stars — and made many of them a lot of money. And she had an uncanny ability to predict what people would want to read. There is a long list of Tina stories I would never have done and was shown to be wrong on almost every one.

There is an adage that a good magazine lasts only a decade. In fact, I think it takes about a century. It follows, however sadly, that we cannot always have the freedom to go on doing exactly the things that our forefathers did. But if we can do something better instead, perhaps this need not be a disaster.

Dr Mary Midgley is a former senior lecturer in philosophy at Newcastle University. Her books include *Can't We Make Moral Judgments?* (Duckworth), *The Ethical Primate* (Routledge)

Orangemen have no right to march down nationalist streets. It is our duty to tell the truth to those marchers

Drumcree and freedom

Mary Midgley

DURING the baring of Orange Order supporters from their habitual march through the Catholic parts of Drumcree constitute an offence against legitimate freedom of expression?

Let us consult the oracle, namely the patron saint of all such freedoms, John Stuart Mill himself, writing on this very topic in chapter three of his *Essay On Liberty*. Men, said Mill, should be free to act on their opinions as well as to express them, but only when they injured nobody else by doing so.

No one pretends that actions should be as free as opinions. Even opinions lose their immunity when the circumstances in which they are expressed are such as to constitute their expression a positive instigation to some mis-

chievous act. An opinion that corn-dealers are starvers of the poor, or that private property is robbery, ought to be unmolested when simply circulated through the press, but may justly incur punishment when delivered orally to an excited mob assembled before the house of a corn-dealer, or when handed about among the same mob in the form of a placard.

Speech, in fact, can sometimes be an action. And actions which are legitimate in some circumstances can become criminal in others because there they injure other people. The inciter's speech or placard against corn-dealers is not just a piece of information. It forms an integral part of his action in leading people there, and the whole point of that action was to provoke violence. Similarly, when Oswald Mooney led his fascists on their march through the East End of London, he

was not merely expressing an opinion that Jews were dangerous to society, though that was part of his justification. People who choose to express their opinions in a place and in a style of rhetoric where they are certain to give offence are not primarily engaged in informing anybody of those

The fact of having done something wrong before is never really a reason for doing it again. People have had to give up human sacrifice, or gladiatorial games

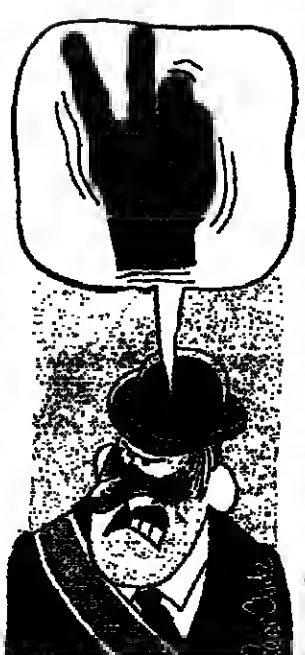
opinions. They are primarily engaged in giving offence, and that is not something that anyone has a basic right to do.

Is Drumcree different? The main difference, of course, is tradition. The Drumcree marchers are not

innovators like Mooney. They are repeating a right often performed before, a right which they associate with a way of life that is sacred to them. They are so accustomed to use defiant and threatening demonstrations of solidarity as bonding rituals that they see the mere fact of antiquity as

bolism — to give up human sacrifice, or gladiatorial games — because they had come to see that their sacred values did not really demand these things, and to see that their sacred values were strong enough to stand without them.

Of course it is easy for us to say this from outside. We are not the ones who have to make the change. All the same, we surely must say it because it is true and because clearly many people in Northern Ireland now feel this point just as strongly and they need support. As Mill said, in such cases, freedom of expression is really no defence. MILL, just because he took freedom so seriously, never made the mistake of supposing that it could be infinite. Freedoms conflict, and the lesser ones must often be given up in order to protect others that are more central. The central freedom in-



involved here is people's need to be free from insult. The freedom to live in an atmosphere not charged with contempt and hatred is a central human need. It is comparable to the need to breathe clean air.

By contrast, the freedom to insult other people when one feels like it merely corresponds to a freedom to discharge noxious fumes over their dwellings. This kind of freedom is not seriously defensible. It follows, however sadly, that we cannot always have the freedom to go on doing exactly the things that our forefathers did. But if we can do something better instead, perhaps this need not be a disaster.

A H Gerrard

Secrets set in stone

F A H GERRARD, who has died aged 99 and was universally known as Gerry, was much less famous as a sculptor than his talents deserved. His relative obscurity with the art-loving public was largely of his own choosing. From very early on he had a bee in his bonnet about art dealers and the art market; something he clearly shared with his first wife, the writer and potter Kathleen Leigh-Pemberton, generally known as Kaff.

In 1925, the year Gerrard became head of sculpture at the Slade School of Fine Art — he was just 26 — he took part in a group show at the Goupil Gallery, exhibiting two carvings. In 1931 he and his soon-to-be wife had a joint show at Colnaghi's, consisting entirely of ceramics: some large animal figures by him, some small and a lot of pots by her.

After that he refused to have anything to do with art dealers, and neither he nor Kaff exhibited in such a context again. Indeed, many who knew them well did not even realise that Kaff painted at all, though a comprehensive retrospect of her work — arranged with Gerry's co-operation in 1981, more than 20 years after her death — showed her to have been a major, very independent talent and quite prolific.

Even then Gerrard would have nothing to do with the basic side of commerce: most of Kaff's work was to be sold, but since his great concern was for her to achieve some posthumous public recognition, paintings were presented to any interested public galleries, with gratifying results for the Tate and the Imperial War Museum, among others.

Gerrard was not averse to public recognition *per se*. He just had strong principles about how it was to be achieved. Dealers were definitely not part of the equation: on the other hand, he had no objection to entering open competitions for public sculpture or accepting commissions. From the first his speciality was animal sculpture: though he was no *animalier* in the conventional sense, and worked entirely by carving direct in wood and stone, he never seemed more at home than when depicting animals. He was, after all, a country boy, born of farming stock, brought up in Cheshire and directly descended from the great 16th-century herbalist John Gerard.

He received a thoroughly practical education, going to Northwich technical school before being joined up, aged 17, in 1916. After basic training with three Highland regiments, he reached his true goal, the Royal Flying Corps, and with less than two hours' instruction was sent up solo. As a result of a mishap when he and his plane flew but the undercarriage remained on the ground, he suffered a spinal injury, the effects of



Gerrard... a great believer in do-it-yourself, he went foraging around bomb sites and returned with more stone and wood than his pupils could use

which dogged him until the second world war when, curiously, another plane crash put the injury to rights, though it nearly cost him his right arm.

On leaving the service in 1919 Gerrard enrolled at Manchester School of Art, and went from there to the Slade, where he studied under Professor Henry Tonks. From the beginning his gifts at carving were recognised as exceptional, and he won various prizes and commissions, including one to illustrate woodcuts a book on Egyptian mummies by Grafton Elliot-Smith, and another illustrating John Gerard's botanical book of the British Medical Association's 1924 conference, which took place that year in Bath.

For both of these assignments he worked in collaboration with a fellow student he had met in 1923, Kathleen Leigh-Pemberton; he exhibited with her in 1931 and married her in 1933. She was five years older than he was. More significant for his own career was the *Memorial to a Hunter* he was commissioned to

carve in 1926 for Haselbech churchyard, Northamptonshire. It was in table form, with a continuous relief of hunting scenes all round the base, and won golden opinions when it was exhibited in the grounds of the Tate Gallery for several months before taking up its final position. The credit accruing from this exposure, plus the fact that Gerrard was now head of the Slade's sculpture department at an extraordinarily early age, led to publicity and other commissions, which may well have fed his determination to manage every aspect of his career himself.

HE WAS, in any case, a great believer in do-it-yourself: at the end of the second world war, when every other art school was wringing its hands about lack of materials, he went out himself on foraging expeditions to bomb sites and returned with more stone and wood than his pupils could use. It is recorded of the same period that, finding the only assistant available to him

seemed to be ruled out by being horn-dumb, Gerrard immediately undertook himself to teach the man to lip-read and even speak quite intelligently. During the 1920s and 1930s Gerrard knew well all the important contemporary figures in carving — notably Eric Gill, Jacob Epstein and Henry Moore — and worked with all three on the carvings commissioned in 1926 for the new London Transport headquarters over St James's Park underground station. Among the subjects treated were personifications of the four winds, Gerrard's being the *North Wind*. If his work is compared with that of his three more famous colleagues, it is clearly of similar quality, which emphasises, if emphasises is needed, that his relative obscurity was his own doing.

This no doubt makes him sound like a very severe and forbidding figure. Stubborn he could certainly be, once he had decided on a particular course of action. But otherwise he was genial and approachable, and generations of students found him easy

and illuminating to work with — among his later students were Eduardo Paolozzi and Leonard McComb. From 1933 he and Kaff lived and worked in an old farm with attached outbuildings that he had bought at Groombridge near the Kent/Sussex border. He continued to teach at the Slade, and to work on commissions for carvings and bronzes intended for locations as varied as the Horticultural Hall, Westminster, an ocean-going liner and Selfridge's store.

DURING the second world war Gerry, an adviser on camouflage, served in France and Belgium, and went through Dunkirk. He ended up as an official war artist. In 1949 he was appointed professor of sculpture at the Slade.

Most of his later work took the form of a small number of commissions for large public sculptures, mostly in the greater London area. In 1950 he did a relief for the Hemel Hempstead Development Cor-

poration; in 1960 he showed a 25-foot relief wall, *The Dance*, at the Battersea Gardens sculpture exhibition and won the Royal Society of British Sculptors' silver medal with it. Between 1962 and 1967 he worked alone on *Delight*, a 40-foot relief wall commissioned by the London County Council for Abbey Wood Park, Woodwich. After his retirement from the Slade in 1968 Gerrard carved another relief wall, entitled *Joy*, in the form of a three-sided enclosure, each side 30-feet long. Even into his nineties, he remained active; after he had given up carving in his late eighties, he still delighted to make drawings of the household's many cats.

In 1970, two years after Kaff died, Gerrard married Nancy Sinclair. After 23 years of marriage she also died, whereupon he married Nancy Sinclair's daughter Karen, who survives him. He had no children.

John Russell Taylor
Alfred Horace (Gerry) Gerrard, sculptor, born May 7, 1899; died June 13, 1998

Alioune Blondin Beye

A good man in Africa

THE United Nations special envoy, Alioune Blondin Beye, who has died in a plane crash in the Ivory Coast aged 59, had strived for five years to find a solution to one of Africa's most intractable conflicts, the civil war in Angola. A tireless negotiator, he was on a five-nation tour of west Africa, seeking to shore up regional support for the peace process at a time when tensions between the Angolan government and Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement are again on the rise.

The Mali-born Beye trained as a lawyer and subsequently lectured in public law at the University of Dijon. Back in Mali, he became youth and sports minister, and foreign minister in 1979. He built up a network of contacts across Africa as a canny and persistent diplomat.

After 11 years as foreign minister, Beye moved to the African Development Bank in Abidjan. In 1993 he was approached by his old friend Boutros Boutros Ghali, then United Nations secretary-general, to become head of the UN peacekeeping mission in Angola (Unavem).

He arrived in the Angolan capital, Luanda, at the end of June 1993. The country was torn apart by the renewed fighting which followed Unita's refusal to accept defeat in the September 1992 elections. While international media attention was focused on Bosnia, Angola's tragedy, far greater in terms of lives lost, was virtually ignored. In addition, the UN's credibility in Angola was at a low ebb after its failure to prevent the return to civil war.

Although some argued that Beye, as an African man, would be in a stronger position to negotiate in the macho atmosphere of Angolan politics than his predecessor, Dame Margaret Anstee, the Angolan government was unhappy about his appointment, believing that his background in francophone Africa, where Unita is well connected, would prejudice him in favour of the rebel movement. His inability to speak Portuguese, also cast doubts on his suitability.

Beye's legendary persistence and optimism were to be tested and, perhaps, in the last few weeks, finally broken. His greatest triumph came in November 1994, when, in the Zambian capital Lusaka, following a tortuous year of negotiations, the Angolan government and Unita signed their second peace accord within three years. That the country has not returned to war since, despite numerous crises, is in large part due to his determined diplomacy.

His style alienated many. His detractors complained that he was dictatorial and authoritarian. Some, particularly western, sensitivities were offended by his obvious liking for the trappings of

protocol. But Beye always maintained that he was working in a tough African environment, and he had to play by its rules if he was to be respected.

The Lusaka Accords stipulated Unita's complete demobilisation and disarmament, and its eventual entry into a government of national unity with Angola's ruling MPLA party. Beye's tactic was to publicly talk up progress, while trying privately to convince Angola's leaders that they had no choice but to comply with the agreement they had, somewhat reluctantly, signed. Some of his harshest criticism was directed at those — often journalists — who were less convinced by the willingness of the MPLA or Unita to finally embrace peace.

Beye's efforts to convince Savimbi to abandon the military option were admirable. Time and time again he would fly down to Unita's headquarters in Angola's central highlands to negotiate; time and time again he would return to Luanda smiling bravely but with little tangible to report.

Eventually the strain began to tell. At the beginning of this year Beye underwent heart surgery in Germany. Typically, he returned to Luanda full of energy. But his enthusiasm was drained by the realisation that Unita had kept thousands of troops hidden in reserve, and by the international community's in-

creasing reluctance to fund a peace process that was drifting without conclusion. Two months ago, Beye surprised many by threatening to resign if Unita did not hand over the remaining areas under its control.

He confided to friends that he was within days of quitting. A great admirer of the current UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, Beye was speaking of working in another capacity for the organisation. His death deprives Mali of its most distinguished diplomat, and leaves Angola hovering between war and peace.

He is survived by his wife, Kadiatou Beye-Camara, and their four children.

Barnaby Phillips
Alioune Blondin Beye, diplomat, born January 8, 1939; died June 28, 1998

Danny Kyle

Songs of the Clyde

DANNY KYLE, who has died aged 58, was a fixture on the Scottish folk music scene for more than 30 years. While he sang and played competently, it was his gift for humour of the most infectious variety that distinguished him as a performer and made him a hilarious character to be with.

It would not be unfair to describe Danny as a personal shambles: he would probably have regarded it as a compliment. He rarely appeared on television, probably at the specific request of the wardrobe department. But he became an extremely popular radio broadcaster in Scotland, in addition to being in constant demand for folk clubs and festivals.

Danny, who came from the rich tradition of the Clydeside shipyards, supported and entertained for every progressive and Labour cause from the anti-Polaris marches of the early 1960s onwards. He was a quintessentially Scottish character, but despised and lampooned any political creed which conflicted with

the internationalism of the songs that he loved. He retained a close friendship with Billy Connolly, with whom he had a lot of experiences during the folk heyday of the 1960s and early 1970s. Whereas Billy has never been a joke-teller, as opposed to a weaver of wonderful stories, Danny was utterly indiscriminate in his repartee — stories, puns (a speciality) and parodies.

A roly-poly figure of a man,



Kyle... personal shambles

Danny came from Paisley — a town so mean that "the men put on black ties at Christmas and tell the weans that Santa Claus is dead." Alternatively, there was the Paisley mill lassie who was asked by the registrar if she was a spinster. "Naw, Ah'm a bank loan winder." Back came the registrar: "You're very ignorant — 'Aye, seven months'."

I had heard them all a thousand times, but for Danny they never faded. In his later years, he became involved in organising folk festivals, including Bute and Killin, which have now become established as annual fixtures. Danny was immensely well-known and liked within Scotland and further afield. He combined the priceless ability to make people laugh with a genuine capacity for communicating the more serious messages that he believed mattered.

Brian Wilson
Danny Kyle, folk singer, born December 12, 1938; died July 5, 1998

Birthdays

James Aldridge, author, 60; Tony Baldry, MP, former Conservative minister, 48; Stephen Bell, economist, 45; Tommy Carmody, jockey, 42; Lisa Coleman, actress, 28; Prof Lord Desai, economist, 58; John Dunlop, racehorse trainer, 59; Clive Ewing, Labour MP, 40; Winnie Ewing, MEP, president Scottish National Party, 69; Sunil Gavaskar, cricketer, 49; Stephen Hagg, chairman, Civil Service College, 49; Graham Johnson, concert accompanist, 48; Lord Lambton, former Conservative minister, 76; Prof Ian Lucas, agriculturalist, 72; Sir Christopher "Bibi" McMahon, banker, 71; John Mack, keeper, Museum of Mankind, 49; Judy Maller, Labour MP, 47; John Morton, sports commentator, 55; Iris Palmer, model, 21; Sir Leslie Porter, former chairman, Tesco, 78; Brian Priestley, jazz musician, author, broadcaster, 52; Prof Sir John Shaw, chairman, Scottish Financial Enterprise, 66; Keith Stackpole, cricketer, 58; Gavin Strang, MP, minister of transport, 55; Josephine Veasey, mezzo-soprano, 66; Virginia Wade, tennis commentator, former Wimbledon champion, 53; Ian Wallace, singer, actor, 79.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A PANEL accompanying an article on the contest to make ITV's new current affairs series, page 3, Media, July 6, we failed to point out that Carlton and ITN have a joint £6.50 bid. Both Carlton and ITN declined to be interviewed for the piece, obliging us to rely on earlier coverage which had been allowed to stand uncorrected. In the same panel, the shorthand statement that Anglia and Meridian had not produced "network current affairs shows" referred only to ITV peak-time series. Anglia, however, have made award-winning current affairs programmes for Channel 4, and Meridian have made a daytime current affairs series for ITV.

THE PICTURE on page 39, Society, July 6, did not show a bronze statue of Joe Chamberlain. The reclining figure is in fact that of Thomas Atwood (1783-1856), who was elected in 1832 as one of the first two members of parliament for Birmingham, having been an activist in the campaign for parliamentary reform.

IN AN article about Radio 3, page 13, C2, July 8, we said, referring to the Proms, "[Nicholas] Kenyon, the departing controller, will continue to devise those unexpected evenings... this season has everything from black protest songs to the 600-year-old music of Abbeys Hildegard of Bingen." She was Hildegard of Bingen.

IN A REPORT on page 3, July 6, headed, Anglican prayer book to include exorcism, we referred to the Archbishop of York as The Rt Rev David Hope. We should have said the Most Rev David Hope (bishops are Rt Rev; archbishops are Most Rev). The Archbishop of York, because he is a privy counsellor, is

also entitled to a Rt Hon in his title. The complete, formal, works would be: The Most Rev and Rt Hon The Lord Archbishop of York. We would not go quite that far in print.

It is the policy of the *Guardian* to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the *Guardian* Editor by telephoning 0171 220 9838 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The *Guardian*, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 220 9837. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Death Notices

FRANKLIN, Grace, on July 6th, suddenly but peacefully at home. An inspiring and loving friend, mother and teacher who will be sadly missed, and remembered with constant affection. Funeral service at St John's Church, Farringdon, York on Wednesday July 15th at 11.00am, followed by private cremation. Flowers may be sent to the private chapel of J. D. Harker & Son, 48-50 Queen's Street, York, or to the church. The funeral service will be held at the discretion of the family.

PECKLEY, Eric, on the 8th July 1998 peacefully at home. Colin Richard aged 64 years. A much loved husband, father, grandfather and friend. Formerly leader of Humberston, Oxford Brookes University & Chair of the O.G.E. Oxford. Private regular mass. The arrangements of the service of Eric will be announced. Family flowers only. Donations if desired in memory of Colin may be sent to St John's Home, St Mary's Road, Oxford.

STONE, Eric, deeply loved wife of the late Robert Graham Stone, died peacefully at home on July 6th, aged 53 years. Funeral on July 17th at 1.00pm at Northcote Crematorium, 100, Northcote Road, Northcote, London. Donations if desired to the charity of the late Eric Stone, may be sent to the charity of the late Eric Stone, 100, Northcote Road, Northcote, London. The funeral service will be held at the discretion of the family.

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In Memoriam
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Naked ambition

Worldwide forces

Britain's Armed Forces are still East of Suez, and East of the Rhine: they are south of the equator and, at least in training in Norway and Canada, north of the Arctic Circle. Of 210,000 personnel, nearly 30,000 are still based outside the UK.

Legend:

- Army personnel and systems outside UK, including Gurkha battalion in Brunei
- Assigned naval patrols or bases, for example ice patrol ship in South Atlantic
- Non-UK RAF planes and support, for example Tornados and VC10K detachment in Turkey
- Symbolic presence, for example administration staff in Belize to maintain training area and Royal Marine party in Diego Garcia

Map Labels:

- Canada
- US
- Belize
- Caribbean
- Gibraltar
- Eastern Atlantic/North Sea
- Central Atlantic
- Ascension Island
- Falkland Islands
- Norway
- Germany
- Bosnia
- Turkey
- Italy
- Cyprus
- Antarctica
- The Gulf
- Brunei
- Indian Ocean
- Malaysia
- Diego Garcia

Malaysia

Garcia

Symbolic presence, for example administration staff in Balang to maintain training area and Royal Marine party in Diego Garcia

manpower; and small numbers will be sufficient given the new, more flexible, large-scale disposal. Since the new emphasis is on rapid deployment why do we need so many static bases around the world?

Sources: (1) The Strategic Defence Review, Stationary Office; (2) The Strategic Defence Review, Supporting Essays; (3) National Institute for the Environment, Environmental Dimensions, Workwatch Institute, Washington, May 1989; (4) Nuclear Futures: Western European Options for the 1990s, Royal Society, RAS, London and Washington.

Graphics sources: Ministry of Defence Performance Report 1985-87, updated MOD press office.

Graphics: Steve Villars, Richard Norton-Taylor's the Guardian's security editor.

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FinanceGuardian

Daimler-Chrysler link may drive Italian and German firms together

Fiat plans tie-up with BMW

Joanna Walters

FIAT is reported to have opened top level talks with BMW — owner of Rover — about a strategic alliance or even a £20 billion merger. They are driven by the need to increase their global reach and product range in an industry where the pressure to consolidate is increasing.

The two companies have been further stung by a string of high-profile deals among their chief competitors.

According to a report in today's Economist, a well-placed source in Munich, BMW's headquarters, said senior executives have held talks in recent weeks to see if a merger can be arranged. The source added that Fiat has long admired BMW.

Fiat would be an attractive partner for BMW, despite

some overlap in the European small-car market with Rover. Not only does it boast annual output of 3 million cars but it owns Ferrari, which would surely comfort BMW's car-crazy chairman Bernd Pischke after his disappointment over Rolls-Royce.

Fiat would be interested in Land-Rover and the addition of Rover's 10 per cent of the UK market to its own four per cent share.

BMW has been trying to revive Rover cars and improve the quality of the Land-Rover range since it bought the motor group in 1994. But it is likely to have been spurred back on to the acquisition trail by the advances recently made by its two home rivals.

Daimler-Benz announced a merger with Chrysler in May. This gives the German company direct access to the US mass market and adds the four-wheel drive Jeep to its

Other big car deals

JUNE: Volkswagen agreed to buy Lamborghini for between £200 and £250 million.

VW is said to be interested in Renault's truck business, VW.

VW's Ferdinand Piech meets Volvo chief executive Leif Johansson, sparking rumours that the German car maker is about to pull off its biggest merger this year.

VW buys BMW to buy Rolls-Royce Motor Cars for \$475 million and engine-maker Cosworth for \$125 million.

MAY: Chrysler to merge with Daimler-Benz in £22.7 billion deal. Speculation mounts about talks between General Motors and Korea's Daewoo, and Ford and Korea's Kia and Samsung.

Renault suggests co-operation with German truck company MAN.

News leaks at talks with foreign companies and agrees to sell stake in truck business to Daimler-Benz.

MARCH: Korea's Hyundai considers a bid for rival Kia, following takeover of Saab by Volvo.

range, which has posed a strong threat to Land-Rover.

Earlier this month Volkswagen trumped BMW to buy the Rolls-Royce and Bentley

carmaker from Vickers for £470 million.

No sooner had VW clinched this deal after a hard-fought battle with BMW than it

snapped up Lamborghini and announced last week it was in merger talks with Volvo.

Despite BMW's claims that Daimler-Chrysler poses no threat and that it would rather build its own range of super-luxury cars than overpay for Rolls-Royce, there is no doubt it has been comprehensively upstaged.

With BMW and Rover's combined output scraping just a million vehicles per year, the group is in danger of becoming a tiddler alongside the 4 million annual production volumes of both Daimler-Chrysler and VW.

Fiat has concentrated on expanding in Europe and developing markets, such as South America, and has not tried to go it alone in the US mass market. But its reach is limited and it has explored partnerships with Ford, Chrysler and Volvo.

Both BMW and Fiat have large family shareholders.

The Italian Agnelli family owns 30 per cent of the Fiat empire. BMW is 50 per cent owned by a trust controlled by the Bavarian Quandts.

The Economist's report suggests that the two families might agree to own 30 per cent each of a combined group. Alternatively, Fiat Auto, the car-making arm that accounts for half of annual group sales of £30 billion, could be hived off either to merge or form a joint venture with BMW.

BMW officials, however, dismissed talk of a merger.

BMW has been investing £500 million a year in Rover. Rover's success depends on the group becoming profitable by 2000-2001 and a strong market for the first full range of cars and off-road vehicles produced under BMW. The potential to share basic car platforms and cut component supply deals across a 5 million-vehicle group could revolutionise Rover's cost-base.

Notebook

The MPC should pay attention



Alex Brummer

THERE was much relief all around that the Bank of England decided to hold its repo rate at 7.5 per cent for the time being — all thoughts of a rate hike were kept at bay.

The debate surrounding the July session of the Bank's monetary policy committee has been fascinating. With the economy slowing, the public discussion has been much more vocal. Industry, through the Engineering Employers' Federation, has made it clear that it believes there is a high risk to jobs.

The Tories, now they have a more effective economic spokesman in Francis Maude, most recently linked with West Coast firm Hambrecht & Quist, which has a hi-tech clientele. But there are higher possibilities including PaineWebber and Lehman, which may have the better distribution of which Deutsche needs in the US.

Not so long ago it might have been thought that new US, made up of Swiss Bank Corporation and Union Bank of Switzerland, was the most likely European institution to progress in the US. But its reputation is taking hard knocks, along with Swiss banking generally, over the Nazi gold issue, which may yet curtail their expansion plans. This, ironically, might give Deutsche Bank, which has sought to confront its wartime history, some marginal advantage.

class investment bank which can compete with Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan, but unlike NatWest and Barclays, it is still preening on.

Deutsche has experienced regulatory scandal with the Peter Young affair at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, and commercial desertions with the recent decision of its hi-tech Quattrone group in the US to defect to stock and barrel to Credit Suisse First Boston.

In Europe, Deutsche Bank chief executive Rolf Breuer recognises that the main focus is on consolidation, with fund managers believing there is a great deal still to come while share values hold up. But for Deutsche Bank in the US, where it is determined to work its way into the top rank, the challenge is even fiercer.

The head of worldwide equities, Michael Philipp, has made it clear that Deutsche is still on the look-out for a US investment bank, despite the loss of part of the team it was building. Its name has been most recently linked with West Coast firm Hambrecht & Quist, which has a hi-tech clientele. But there are higher possibilities including PaineWebber and Lehman, which may have the better distribution of which Deutsche needs in the US.

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Digital shift

THE BBC deserves real credit for grabbing hold of the concept of digital radio and helping to bring it to the market place. Having invested in a chain of transmitters capable of bringing crystal clear, digital sound to 60 per cent of Britain, it has encouraged five of the largest radio manufacturers to bring the technology to market.

The new digital sets, in the first instance aimed at the car market but with Walk-digital not far behind, will be priced at first £500-£1,200 depending on the sophistication of the model, but represent a technological advance on a par with the first video recorders for the commercial market and CD players — both of which are now in the reach of the mass market.

Drivers putting digital technology in their vehicles will actually have little need for CD players, since digital radio will be able to produce the same quality, a wider range of programming as well as the ability to save and digitally store programmes so they can be listened to later.

Who needs it? Everyone, alongside the new wide-screen digital televisions, which Dixons will be selling before long.

Deutsche push

IT is not really in the nature of Germany-style capitalism for corporations to give up the game just because they hit a bad patch. So it is with Deutsche Bank. It has had no end of knockbacks in its efforts to develop a world

End of the line for Rolls-Royce engines contract

Industrial staff

ROLLS-ROYCE Motor Cars and its new owner, Volkswagen, were yesterday given 12 months to find a new supplier of engines and other key components when BMW carried through its threat to stop sup-

plying the luxury car maker. BMW, which fought an eight-month battle for control of Rolls-Royce only to be pipped to the post by its German rival, always threatened to stop supplying the engines which power the Seraph and the Bentley Arnage if it lost. Yesterday it said the last engine would be supplied on

July 9, 1999, to comply with contractual obligations. The move leaves Rolls-Royce potentially looking to replace other key components suppliers who teamed up with BMW to supply the Crewe operation.

ZF supplies gearboxes, Bosch the electronics, and there is a question mark also

over the supply of air-conditioning systems.

BMW supplied V12 engines for the Seraph and V8 engines for the Arnage. The two four-door models account for 80 per cent of production which last year ran at a total of 1,518 and is expected to hit 2,000 this year.

A spokesman for Rolls said

the decision was expected. "It was not really a surprise," BMW said. "Volkswagen has said many times in the last few weeks that it will be able to replace these parts before the end of our contractual obligation. BMW therefore believes the production and the workforce at Rolls' plant in Crewe are safe."

VW clinched the support of shareholders of Vickers, the engineering firm that owned Rolls-Royce, when it offered £479 million for the 92-year-old carmaker. VW is expected to use Cosworth — the high-performance engine-maker it is also buying from Vickers — to produce new engines for Rolls and Bentley cars.

Killer brands



Morrell's brewery in central Oxford is likely to attract interest from property developers

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS LOVE

Marketing muscles out family brewer

Bitterness as 216-year-old firm puts up For Sale sign. **Julia Finch** reports

MORRELL'S, the Oxford brewer of speciality ales like the 'Varsity', Gradinate, Oxford Bitter and Friars, yesterday put itself up for sale, saying it could no longer compete with the marketing muscle of the leading brewers.

The 216-year-old brewer, owner of 132 pubs in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, called time after accounts from newly merged PricewaterhouseCoopers were asked to advise on strategy. Selling up, said a spokesman, was "the most tenable of their recommendations".

Morrell's, which made £1 million profit last year and is 57 per cent owned by the founding Morrell family, is the fourth independent brewery this year to come under pressure.

In February Gibbs Mew, the Salisbury brewer of Bishop's Tippet, sold out to the ambitious new pub-

owning company, Enterprise Inns. Last month Usher of Trowbridge and Sunderland's Vaux said they were being stalked.

Potential buyers for Morrell's include rival brewers, the aggressive new pub groups and City of London financial buyers, which see pubs as a lucrative source



of rental income. Property developers could be interested in closing the central Oxford brewery and replacing it with shops, offices and apartments.

Ken Hodgson, chairman and chief executive of Morrell's, said: "Given the long history of the brewery here in Oxford, this has not been an easy decision.

"We cannot say with absolute certainty what the future holds for our 77 members of staff. If job losses are necessary, a full redundancy package will be offered."

A spokesman for the Campaign for Real Ale said selling up would "wreck a viable, profit-making company" and that directors had forgotten "thousands of devoted consumers".

The brewery has rejected a bid from the Eld family, which owns 22 per cent of the company. Charles Eld was dismissed six weeks ago as managing director after 10 years, and his 75-year-old mother, Margie, resigned as a director last week.

She said: "We had been

running the business at a reasonable but smallish profit, but the board felt that this was not a sufficient financial return. Our ambition is to keep the brewery going to keep the

Brewing giants

Who the big four brewers have announced

Carlsberg-Tetley

- Carlsberg
- Tetley
- Tetley Walker
- Tetley Walker
- Johns Tetley
- Alcoa Brewery
- Aylebury Brewery

Whitbread

- Boddington
- Beck's (15%)
- Flowers
- Coates Eden

Scottish & Newcastle

- William Younger
- Hornes Brewery
- John Smith
- Thames Valley
- Wigmore
- Newcastle Breweries

jobs and safeguard the licensees and pubs."

Now she believes the brewery is almost certain to close.

City analysts believe the outlook for family-con-

trolled regional brewers is grim. Their national competitors are pouring millions of pounds into building national brands. Whitbread, for instance, is reported to spend £15 million a year advertising Stella Artois lager.

This week Scottish & Newcastle disclosed that 60 per cent of its beer sales are accounted for by six brands, compared with 45 per cent two years ago.

The beer market is shrinking, too. Drinkers are putting away 1 per cent less beer every year and quenching their thirsts with lager rather than bitter. They visit pubs less often and sit at home sipping £1.8 billion worth of illegally imported lager.

The 35 remaining family-controlled breweries include: Adams (Suffolk), Aikels (Wilt), Bateman (Lincoln), S.A. Brain (Cardiff), Brakspear (Oxford), Dorrington (Gloucester), Edwards (Leeds), Fellers (London), Harvey (Sussex), Holt (Manchester), Hook Norton (Oxford), Jennings (Cumbria), Palmer (Dorset), Shepherd Neame (Kent), St Austell (Cornwall), Timothy Taylor (York), Watney (Wilt), Youngs (London).

Ethics call for pension funds

Roger Cowe

SOCIAL considerations must be taken into account by pension trustees when making investment decisions, pensions minister John Denham said yesterday. The announcement paves the way for an explosion of ethical investment.

Mr Denham said the Government plans to change regulations so that trustees have to explain their ethical stance as part of an annual statement of investment principles. "Whether or not investors are aware of it, investment decision-making has an ethical dimension," Mr Denham said. "We are minded to require trustees to disclose to what extent they

have taken account of ethical and social considerations."

Giving the annual lecture to the UK Social Investment Forum, which represents fund managers, banks and others groups involved in ethical investment, the minister said consultation for the Pensions Act had revealed widespread misunderstanding.

"We have found trustees are confused and uncertain," he said. "The minister made clear that the priority for pension trustees must remain the financial interests of beneficiaries — but said that social considerations can also influence decision-making."

Investment experts forecast last night that the change in stance would fuel rapid expansion of socially-conscious investment.

TOURIST RATES — BANK BELLS

Australia 2,297	Germany 485.25	Malaysia 6.88	Singapore 2.75
Austria 30.41	Greece 485.25	Malta 0.62	South Africa 9.64
Belgium 59.86	Hong Kong 12.25	Netherlands 3.2558	Spain 24.58
Canada 2,342.23	India 69.87	New Zealand 3.034	Sweden 12.89
Cyprus 0.851	Ireland 1.144	Norway 12.35	Switzerland 2.47
Denmark 11.13	Israel 8.08	Portugal 254.43	Turkey 424,560
Finland 8.91	Italy 2.866	Saudi Arabia 6.02	USA 1.58
France 9.715			

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shilling and malawi)

At a screen near you



Penny Junor, communications director for Waitrose, demonstrates the new shop-while-you-work system

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Workers go desktop shopping

Roger Cowe

WAITROSE yesterday launched a service which allows customers to do their weekly shop without leaving their workplace. It is the latest in a series of experiments by the supermarket group in remote ordering and delivery.

The service has already signed up British Airways' new head office at Harmondsworth and is talking to BT, the BBC, Nationwide building society and Microsoft, whose internet technology is used in the system.

Dubbed Waitrose@work, the new operation has been developed and operated in conjunction with the computer company ICL, whose Reading head office has been

used as a test site over the past year.

The Waitrose service is based on ICL's intranet technology, which must be installed before workers can shop from their desks. The office must also be near a Waitrose store — all of which are in the south of England — and have car parking for staff so they can take the shopping home after work.

Then workers can order through their personal computers from the full range of products in the local store. The orders are faxed by ICL to the relevant store and assembled by store staff. Delivery, which is free for orders of more than £5, will be by lunchtime for orders placed by 9.30am, or in the evening.

Keith Todd, ICL's chief executive, said yesterday that the new venture was a clear

Home shopping

SAFeway has launched a home shopping service in its 30 stores, allowing customers to order groceries by phone or computer. The service is available to customers who live within a 10-mile radius of a Safeway store.

MARKS & SPENCER has also launched a home shopping service, allowing customers to order groceries by phone or computer. The service is available to customers who live within a 10-mile radius of a Marks & Spencer store.

ASDA has launched a home shopping service, allowing customers to order groceries by phone or computer. The service is available to customers who live within a 10-mile radius of an ASDA store.

SOMERFIELD has launched a home shopping service, allowing customers to order groceries by phone or computer. The service is available to customers who live within a 10-mile radius of a Somerfield store.

TESCO has launched a home shopping service, allowing customers to order groceries by phone or computer. The service is available to customers who live within a 10-mile radius of a Tesco store.

example of how technology could change people's lives. "It's what I call the Martini effect — any time, any where, any place," he said.

Jenny Sharp, head of global

services at BA, said becoming Waitrose's first customer was part of the airline's attempt to introduce new ways of working at its new headquarters. "Challenges in life are getting

can take the hassle and stress out of people's lives they will be much more productive".

Mark Price, Waitrose marketing director, said the cost to employers of setting up the system would be "minimal".

He said the operation overcame problems which have been experienced with internet-based systems, especially the slowness of placing orders and the limited product range on some services.

Mr Price also pointed out delivery to offices was more viable than home delivery, and more practical for many workers because they did not have to specify a time when they would be at home to receive the shopping. The service is not necessarily limited to large employers, since smaller companies sharing a business park could club together to subscribe.

Kwik Save to freshen up with 5,000 extra jobs

Roger Cowe

SOMERFIELD, the supermarket group which also trades as Gateway and Food Giant, yesterday promised to create 5,000 jobs over the next 18 months as a result of converting the Kwik Save stores which were acquired earlier this year.

But the group reported a loss of £11 million because of the cost of the takeover.

Conversion to the Somerfield format will increase the proportion of fresh food in the stores. Conversion of the 872 shops will take five years as part of a £1 billion investment programme. Only about 60 shops are likely to be affected this year.

Some shops from each chain will be shut, with 120 closures expected over the next 18 months. Somerfield said many staff from the stores to be closed would be able to find jobs elsewhere in the chain, and 5,000 net new jobs would result, many of them part-time.

The Kwik Save brand will survive, with the group's 28

Food Giant hypermarkets to be converted to the better-known discount brand by the end of this year.

Somerfield yesterday reported sales growth over the past two months ahead of expectations. Sales from comparable stores over the past 10 weeks have been almost 4 per cent higher than the corresponding period last year.

That represents an improvement over the 1.9 per cent growth achieved last year, and a higher figure than some of the other supermarket chains. Sainsbury issues a trading update today, in which it is expected to report a lower figure.

Somerfield chief executive David Simons said the growth stemmed from the chain establishing its image as a community store among up-market customers.

Sales for the Somerfield chain edged ahead last year, but the addition of Kwik Save for the last few weeks increased the total to £3.7 billion.

Exceptional costs of £133 million left the group showing a loss of £11 million.

US firm bids to stamp its mark on Creative

Lisa Buckingham City Editor

GREETING card company Hallmark has launched a £180 million bid yesterday for British rival Creative Publishing.

Hallmark — best known for its Forever Friends bears, the hedgehogs of Country Companions and the Peanuts series — wants to expand into the seasonal and own-label markets, where Creative is a leading player.

The bid has the backing of Creative's directors, who own 8.6 per cent of the shares. That would net a collective £16 million.

The deal will leave the combined group controlling nearly 30 per cent of the market which will mean an investigation by the Office of Fair Trading.

However, a spokesman for Hallmark said that retailers rather than producers were influential in setting the price of cards. Barriers to entry into the business are low, he added, ensuring that competition between the hundreds of companies in the market remains intense.

The company said it thought an inquiry by the Mergers and Monopolies Commission was unlikely.

There was speculation that a rival — possibly American Greetings which has acquired

Hanson White and Camden Graphics — might emerge but Hallmark said it was confident that its 233p-a-share offer would succeed.

Hallmark, which is based in Kansas and controlled by the founding Hall family, employs 880 people in the UK. It said there were no plans for redundancies among Creative's 2,000 staff.

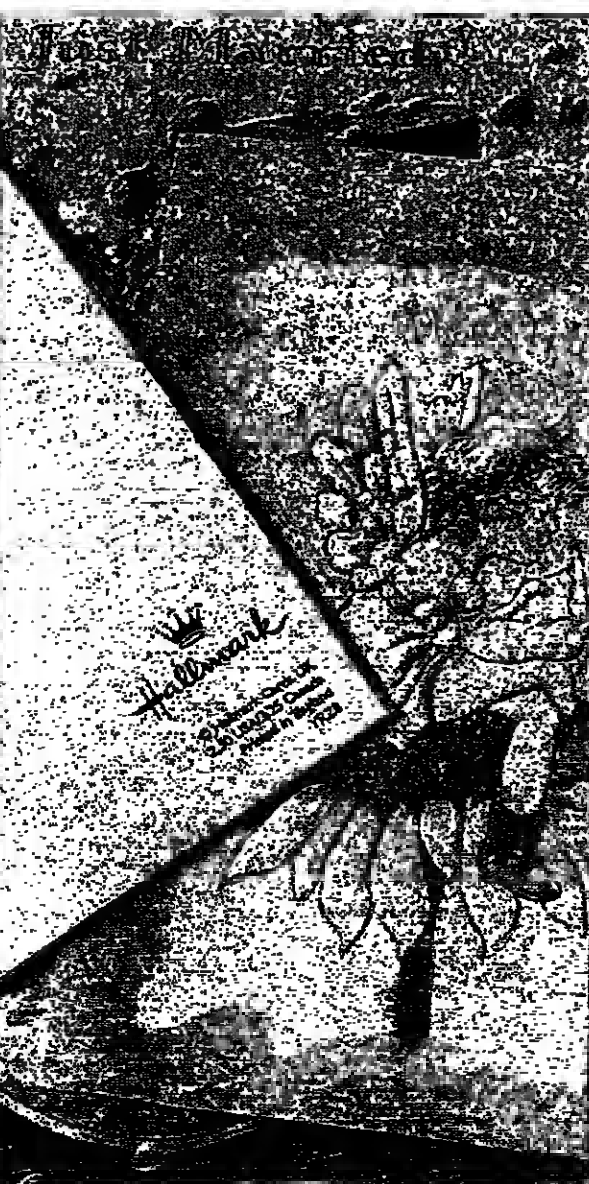
Rather, it is expected to explore the possibility of using Creative's Bradford-based manufacturing facilities instead of outsourcing the work.

A spokesman said the American company was also keen to explore the idea of developing its own seasonal boxed-card sets for leading high-street outlets, such as Marks & Spencer and the large supermarket groups.

Hallmark, whose global revenues totalled £2.3 billion last year, now needs to secure the backing of some 10 of the City's leading fund managers in order to secure control.

In the UK, Hallmark made profits of £5.7 million last year, while Creative returned a surplus of £15.2 million. Both companies have expressed confidence about the prospects for 1998.

Britons buy more cards per head — about 66 a year — than any other country and it is estimated that the price of cards rose about 18 per cent last year.



Hallmark has designs on own cards PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEAVER

ITV goes to war on BBC's £1bn digital budget

Commitment to public service faces challenge, reports Simon Beavis

THE ITV companies will today go into public battle with the BBC by releasing a scathing critique of the way the corporation is governed and accounted for.

They will also call on the Government to investigate its commitment to public service broadcasting.

The report is to be submitted to the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith.

However, sources indicated last night that early drafts had already been shown to officials at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Richard Eyre — the ITV chief executive — has reacted angrily to a report in the Guardian that the BBC is planning to spend £1 billion over the next five years on digital television and radio services.

The BBC will disclose next week at what it describes as its first annual general meeting that it has already been able to build a £300 million war chest to take it into the digital age. It will also announce that

it expects annual expenditure to run at £200 million a year over the next five years.

The ITV report will be a more wide-ranging critique of the way the BBC is run. It will restate ITV's long-held complaint that the BBC's fast-growing commercial activities are being cross-subsidised by the compulsory licence fee.

The BBC is publishing its accounts with the promise that they will be more transparent than ever, with clear evidence that the commercial activities are free of subsidies and contributing to the BBC's core licence-fee funded activities.

There will be a separate set of accounts for BBC Worldwide — the commercial arm that cut the BBC's pay-TV deals with Flextech in the UK and the Discovery Channel in the US.

But ITV remains convinced that even by the standards of other European public-funded bodies, the BBC is protected by opaque reporting standards.

It is expected to attack the performance of BBC 1 and BBC 2 and call for the ITC rather than the BBC governors, headed by Sir Christopher Bland, to regulate the BBC's commercial activities.

50-year low in union ranks

Seumas Milne Labour Editor

TRADE union membership is at its lowest level since the second world war, according to the latest figures.

The most signal retreat has been among male, manual and industrial workers — the traditional bastions of union strength.

The greatest concentration of trade unionists is now in professional and "associate professional" jobs — such as nurses and technicians — and the public sector.

The broadest measure of union membership, based on returns to the Certification Office, now stands at 7.9 million, down from 13 million at its peak in 1979.

More up-to-date figures, from the 1997 Labour Force Survey, which only includes those in work and in the country during the survey week, puts union membership at 7.1 million. The TUC's own 1998 membership has dropped by 1.6 per cent this year to 6.6 million, its lowest level since 1944.

coming "Fairness at Work" legislation, creating a legal right to union recognition where a majority wants it, and the TUC's own recruitment and organisation drive should yield results in time. But those factors are now likely to be offset by rising unemployment.

The new official figures show that 3 million workers — or 38 per cent of the workforce — are covered by union recognition agreements for collective bargaining on pay and conditions — a key factor in bolstering membership. Around 44 per cent are employed in workplaces where unions or staff associations are recognised.

But the proportion of workers in unions varies wildly across industries and in different parts of the country. In the hotel and restaurant business only 7 per cent of employees are members, while on the railways the proportion is 80 per cent.

In the South-east of England outside London, only 22 per cent of workers are union members, while in Wales the rate is much higher, at 42 per cent.

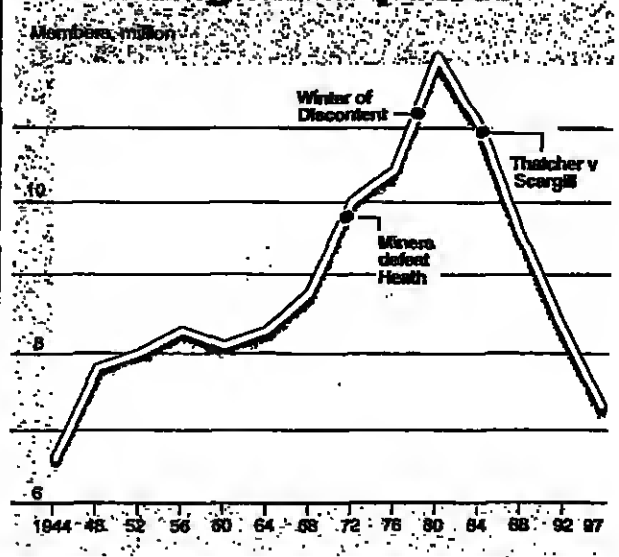
Frances O'Grady, director of the TUC's New Unionism project — which is heading the campaign to apply successful North American and Australian recruitment techniques in Britain — said yesterday that the new figures were a "clear sign that we have got to step up the drive to organise".

The TUC's Organising Academy, which is halfway through a year's training course for 36 union organisers, has already paid for itself in the membership dues of workers signed up as part of its field work.

"That shows that if you invest by putting organisers on the ground, it pays off," Ms O'Grady said.

The Government's forth-

Declining union power



News in brief

Peace talks on 'fixing' of Nasdaq

MERRILL LYNCH, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and other big securities firms are understood to have begun talks with Wall Street's regulator, the Securities and Exchange Commission, to settle alleged trading violations on the Nasdaq market, where Microsoft and many high-tech firms are listed.

The SEC has told the firms and more than 100 traders that it is preparing civil cases over alleged price fixing by dealers. If there is a deal, securities firms face paying fines of up to \$10 million (£3.1 million).

Wall Street firms agreed in December to pay more than \$1 billion to settle class-action by investors who said they were overcharged in the Nasdaq market.

The talks come as Nasdaq is fighting to grab business from the New York Stock Exchange and the City and running ads in Britain touting itself as the "stock exchange for the next 100 years". — *Mark Tran in New York*

Pensions rescue

SOME 500 people who may have received poor pensions advice could be closer to winning compensation through the official "rescue fund". The Investors Compensation Scheme, which can pay up to £48,000 to clients of investment firms which fall owing money, yesterday opened the way for customers of a defunct West Midlands firm to apply formally for redress.

A spokeswoman said 478 claims had been made by clients of Roger Michael Jones, trading as financial advisers Parker Grant & Company, of Perton, near Wolverhampton. The firm ceased trading in 1994. — *Rupert Jones*

Coke opening at top

COCA-COLA Beverages, the fourth largest bottler of the soft drink, is expected to make its debut on the London Stock Exchange on Monday at the "upper end" of a 125p to 160p price range, which would value the company at as much as £1.75 billion.

One analyst expects a shortage of stock because the Coca-Cola Company is retaining a 50.1 per cent shareholding. — *Jill Treanor*

Buyout offer to Names

THE trend towards buying out the Names of Lloyd's of London gathered pace yesterday when a market leading player, Cox Insurance, unveiled plans to offer Names on its syndicates £162.5 million cash or a share alternative for their underwriting capacity. — *Pauline Spragg*

Abbey remembers Christian victims



MAXIMILIAN KOLBE died in Auschwitz-Birkenau after offering his life to save a fellow prisoner, Franciszek Gajowniczek, who had been condemned to death after the successful escape of another prisoner. Kolbe was born in Poland, a devout Catholic; he studied philosophy and theology in Rome. He and six other students set up a group, the *Militia Immaculatae*. The group flourished in a community in Warsaw. Kolbe founded another centre in Nagasaki, Japan. When the Nazis arrived, Kolbe was arrested. In the concentration camp, he gave his food to fellow prisoners and continued to celebrate mass. He was killed by lethal injection in 1941. His cell has now become a shrine.



MANCHE MASEKOLA was only 14 in 1928 when her mother and father killed her because she insisted on attending classes on Christianity at the missionary station near her home in Sekhukhuneland, Transvaal, South Africa. Fearful that she would leave them, or refuse to marry, her parents tried to discourage her. She defied them, although she was beaten, and refused to abandon her Christianity. In February 1928 her mother and father took her to a remote place and killed her. She was buried by a granite rock on a lonely hillside. A few days later her younger sister died and was buried beside her. The burial site has become a place of pilgrimage for South African Christians.



JANANI LUWUM, a young teacher in Uganda, was converted to charismatic Christianity in 1948. He went to theological college and was ordained a priest in 1956. He got a reputation for creative, energetic leadership and he was consecrated bishop of northern Uganda in 1969. Shortly afterwards, Idi Amin took power after a coup. He sought a good relationship with Luwum, who became the Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Congo-Kinshasa in 1974, but in 1976, Luwum protested to Amin about the violence of the security services. All the church leaders were summoned to Kampala and ordered to leave the room. Luwum said: "They are going to kill me. I am not afraid." His body was never found.



ELIZABETH of Hesse-Darmstadt was orphaned as a child and came to England to be brought up in the household of her grandmother, Queen Victoria. In 1884, at the age of 20, she married the fifth son of Tsar Alexander II. After the assassination of Grand Duke Sergei, Elizabeth gave away her jewellery and sold her most luxurious belongings and set up the Martha and Mary Home in Moscow. They became the Sisters of Love and Charity and their work of prayer and charity flourished. After the 1917 revolution, the Bolsheviks imprisoned and killed hundreds of nuns and priests. Elizabeth was arrested in 1918; she was shot the night after the Tsar and his family were assassinated.

Ten modern martyrs find their niche in history

Maureen Bunting
Religious Affairs Editor

TEN statues representing Christian martyrs from every continent of the world were unveiled on the west front of Westminster Abbey yesterday.

Figures of people such as Martin Luther King and Oscar Romero will stand in 15th century niches — which have been vacant since the Middle Ages — as a symbol of the persecution Christians have experienced in the 20th century.

"We decided to use the niches to proclaim a message that the 20th century has been by far the greatest period of Christian martyrdom," said Canon Anthony Harvey of Westminster Abbey. "It is also very obvious evidence that the abbey is a living church which is constantly developing and changing. It is not a museum. It has a spiritual life as well as an historical life."

The statues were unveiled at a ceremony attended by the Queen, Prince Philip — whose great aunt, the Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia is one of those commemorated — and the Archbishop

of Canterbury. Relatives and friends of the 10 martyrs also attended a service in the abbey.

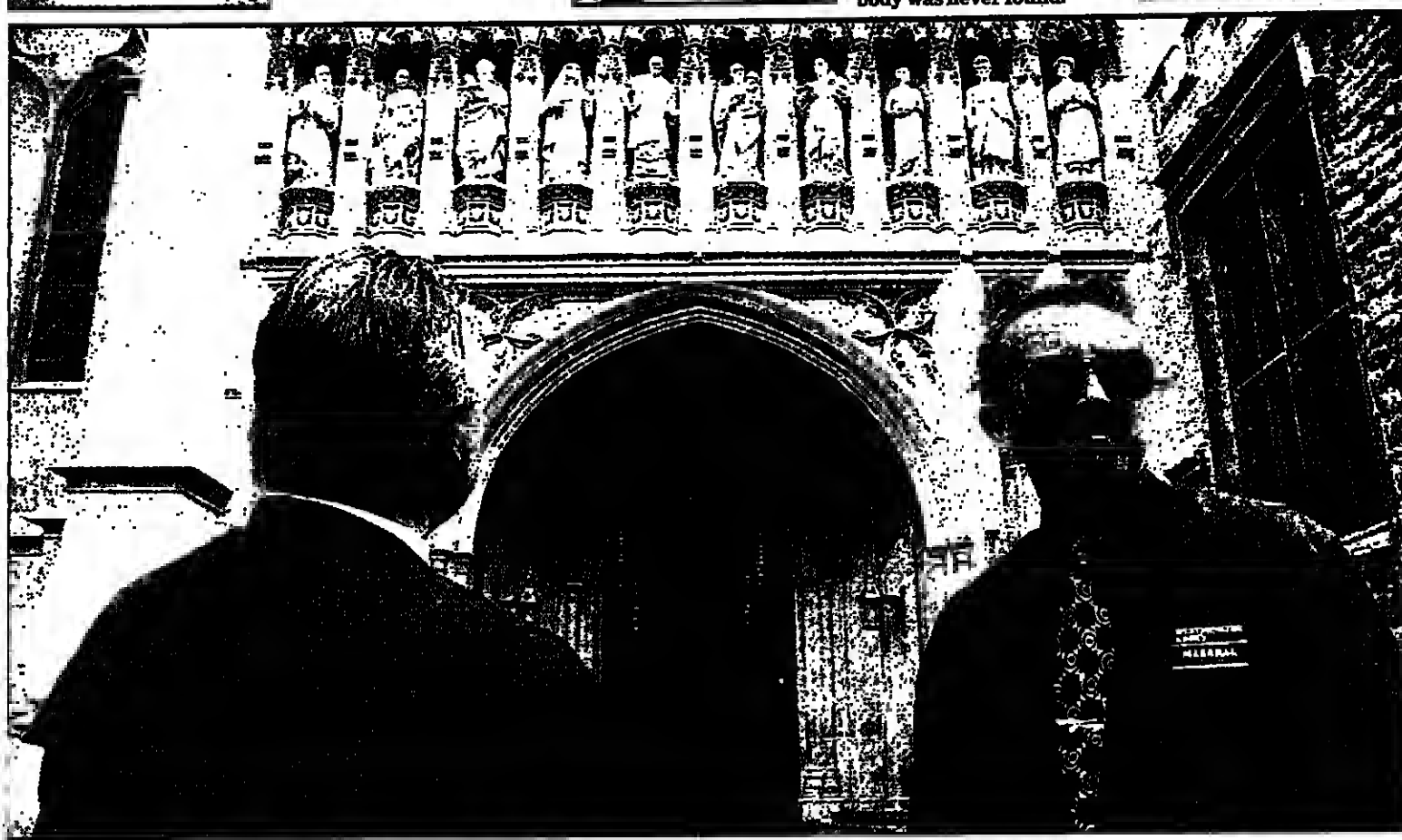
A private donation covered the cost of the statues which were designed and carved by Tina Crawley and a team of assistants.

The selection of which martyrs to place on one of the most famous facades in Britain was not always obvious, admitted Canon Harvey who headed the committee.

"We wanted figures who would be representative of all the regions of persecution around the world and all denominations," he said. "In some areas, it was obvious — such as Martin Luther King or Archbishop Oscar Romero — but in other areas we consulted the local church. For example, when we asked the South African church, they didn't hesitate and insisted that Manche Masekola was most representative of what people had endured for Christ."

The Gothic niches were always designed to contain statues and after the restoration of the abbey's west front in 1922, it was decided they should be filled.

In the Middle Ages, such niches were usually filled



The west front of Westminster Abbey showing the statues in position in the 15th century niches, unoccupied since the Middle Ages. PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAHAM TURNER

with representations of biblical figures, saints, or historical figures such as kings or bishops. But it was decided by the dean and chapter that the abbey amply represented British history already and settled on the theme of global martyrdom.

In his sermon at the service, Canon Harvey referred to two recent martyrdoms — that of the auxiliary bishop of Guatemala, Juan Gerardo Cordero and the suicide of

Bishop John Joseph of Faisalabad, Pakistan — as evidence of the continuing persecution suffered by many Christians.

"There has, of course, never been a time in Christian history when someone, somewhere, has not died rather than compromise with the powers of oppression, tyranny and unbelief, but our century, which has been the most violent in recorded history, has created a roll of martyrs far exceeding that of any

previous period. Who knows how many Christians perished under Stalin, under Hitler, under the Cultural Revolution in China?" said Canon Harvey, sub-dean of the abbey, in his address.

He concluded: "Visitors come to the abbey from all over the world. They are of many faiths or of none. They will see these statues and be reminded of the stories of heroic faithfulness which they signify."



OSCAR ROMERO was the second of 11 children, and at 13 he declared a vocation to the priesthood. In 1977, he became archbishop of San Salvador. In the same month, protesters were attacked by soldiers and a priest known to Romero was murdered. More and more Romero identified with the poor and the persecuted. In May 1978, Romero visited the Pope and presented him with dossiers on the injustice and violence of El Salvador. But he was isolated inside and outside the church; he was accused by his critics of allying the church with revolutionaries. In March 1980 he was shot dead while celebrating mass.



DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, born in Breslau, Germany, in 1906. As a Lutheran, he was fascinated by ecumenism and visited Rome where he was moved by Roman Catholicism. He recognised the danger of Nazism and tried to warn the German Protestant churches. In 1933, he moved to London but returned to Germany to run an illegal seminary. It was shut by the Nazis in 1937 and he left for New York, but as war loomed, chose to return home. He was arrested in March 1943 for resistance activities and was executed days before the arrival of the liberating Soviet forces on April 9, 1945.



ESTHER JOHN was born Qamar Zia in a Muslim family in India in 1929. At the age of 17, she began attending a Christian school and was profoundly moved by the faith of her teachers and by the Bible. When her family moved to Pakistan after partition, she continued to develop her faith in secret. After seven years, she fled, terrified of marriage to a Muslim. She took the name of Esther John and started evangelising in the villages around Chichawatni, teaching women to read and working with them in the fields. In 1960, she was found murdered in her bed. Her killer was never traced.



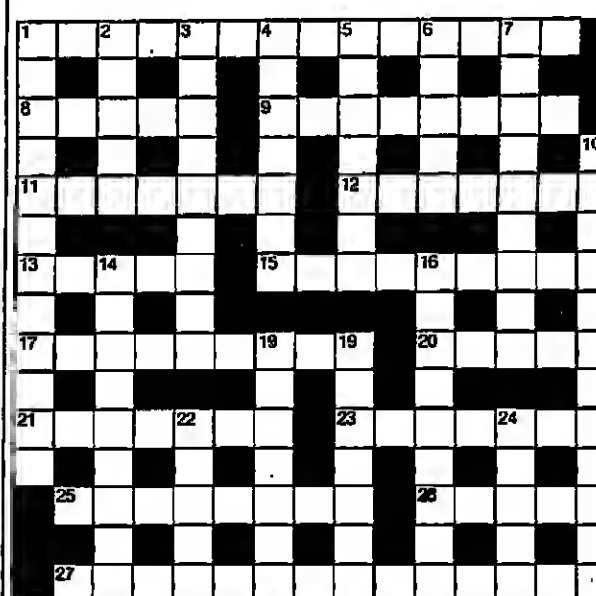
LUCIAN TAPIEDI was born in 1921 in Taupota, Papua New Guinea. His father was a sorcerer, but Tapiedi became a Christian and a teacher. On July 21 1942, the Japanese invaded the island and began murdering missionaries. In north Papua New Guinea, Tapiedi accompanied a group of missionaries trying to escape from the Japanese. They came to a village inhabited by the Orokaiva people, and one of them murdered Tapiedi. The place where he was killed became a shrine and the murderer later converted to Christianity and took the name of Rivijapa Lucian and built a church in the memory of Tapiedi.



WANG ZHIEMING was executed in 1973 at a mass rally of more than 10,000 people organised by the Red Guard in the Cultural Revolution. He lived in Wuding county in the Yunnan region of China where there was a strong Christian community. During the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) the churches were closed and the 2,795 Christians in the area were persecuted. Wang Zhieming was a pastor; in May 1969, he was arrested and four years later, at the age of 68, he was condemned to death. In October 1980, Wang Zhieming was "rehabilitated" by party officials and his family were offered compensation.

Guardian Crossword No 21,323

Set by Janus

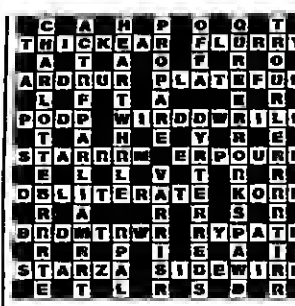


Across

- 1 Take off after the match? (5,3,9)
- 8 Delicate point accepted by a relative (5)
- 9 Separate summary (5)
- 11 Takes cover when certain to be discovered in deadly sin (7)
- 12 He is an expert on suet dish (7)
- 13 Corn-kling is titular head (5)
- 15 Explorer (Scott) who could be a devil down under (9)
- 17 Model having to study philosophy as punishment (9)
- 20 Bird going to church for a bit of music (5)
- 21 One act play is first modern example of Greek pronunciation (7)
- 23 Up-to-date on one part of the human anatomy (7)
- 25 Extra mathematical process (5)
- 26 She wept in rejecting decoration (5)
- 27 Rosy outlook for statesman on search for gold (6,5)

Down

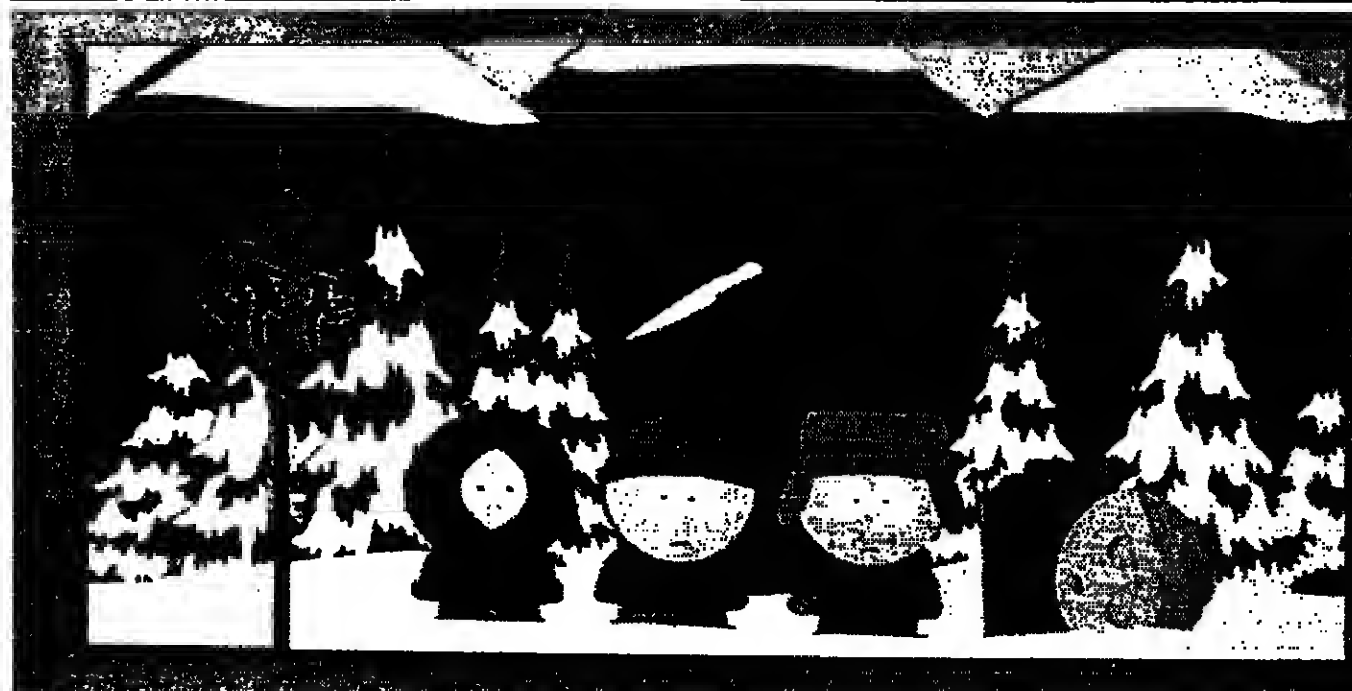
- 1 Mid-flight entertainment for down-to-earth fliers? (7-5)
- 2 Is of help when accepting wages (5)
- 3 Flower box many cursed (5)
- 4 Chief determined to acquire audio equipment (7)
- 5 They may be blown when tempers fray (7)
- 6 Flower making Austen aunt lose her head (5)
- 7 Tree Cinnamomum for fruit (5)
- 10 Putting money back in to renewal of siege (12)
- 14 North European I defame verbally (9)
- 16 They may have high hopes about Paris workers (5)
- 18 In it a doctor is a foot specialist (7)
- 19 He wants to know about the French composer, right? (7)
- 22 At this place in France no good cake decoration is to be had (5)
- 24 Pole responsible for a poetic effusion? (5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,322

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SOUTH PARK
STARTS TONIGHT

11.40PM

